

Austrian parties form coalition

VIENNA (R) — Austria's two biggest political parties have agreed to form a "grand coalition" government, the first to rule the country since 1966, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said Wednesday. Vranitzky said he would remain chancellor in the new government. He headed the negotiating team of the Socialist Party (SPOE), which emerged as the strongest party with 80 seats in the 183-seat parliament in last November's general election, in talks with the People's Party (OVP), led by Alois Mock, which won 77 seats. "We have reached agreement on all major subjects and the distribution of ministerial posts," Vranitzky added. According to the agreement the SPOE will occupy the post of chancellor, minister in the chancellor's office responsible for public services and health, the Interior Ministry, Social Affairs Ministry, Transport and State Industry Ministry, Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Education.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Israelis attacked in West Bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — Palestinians stoned an Israeli minibus in the West Bank town of Qalqilia on Wednesday, and one man was injured by flying glass, the military command said. The minibus was taken from Qalqilia, 50 kilometres north west of occupied Jerusalem to the nearby Israeli town of Kfar Saba for hospitalisation, said an army spokesman. In Nablus, the largest town in the occupied West Bank, troops used tear gas to disperse a crowd of rock-throwing youths after they stoned a military observation post, said the spokesman, who asked that his name not be used in keeping with military regulations. Also Wednesday, two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli bus near the Palestinian refugee camp of Kalandia in the West Bank eight kilometres north of Jerusalem, the military command said. No injuries were reported and the bus was only slightly damaged, a spokeswoman said. Troops searched the area for the perpetrators, the army command said. No arrests were reported.

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Jordanian Air Force plane crashes

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Jordanian Air Force training aircraft fell and crashed Wednesday noon after developing a technical fault but its crew baled out safely, according to the General Army Headquarters. It said in a statement that the Bulldog aircraft was being flown in northern Jordanian regions on a training mission.

Kuwait, Jerusalem declared twin cities

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Jerusalem were declared twin cities at a ceremony here Wednesday ahead of an Islamic summit meeting in the Gulf emirate later this month. Raubi Al Khateeb, the Arab mayor of East Jerusalem deported by Israel, and Kuwaiti Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghanim signed the twinning document.

Al Najah threatened with long closure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities have threatened to close Al Najah University in the occupied West Bank for more than a year if students take part in banned anti-Israeli activities, a university spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Abdul Latif Agel told a news conference that Israeli West Bank coordinator Shmuel Goren gave him the warning in a conversation Tuesday.

Israel sentences PLO commander captured off Beirut

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court convicted an Arab commander of membership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Lieutenant Colonel Salim Mahmoud Salim Khalas, a senior commander of the group's Fatah faction, was captured in July when Israel intercepted the vessel Anton, on which he was travelling from Cyprus to Lebanon. He will be sentenced next month.

Israelis detain Lebanese fishermen

TYRE (R) — An Israeli gunboat intercepted a Lebanese fishing boat and took its three occupants to Israel, port officials said Wednesday. They said the three Lebanese residents of Tyre were taken to an unidentified Israeli port after their boat was stopped off the South Lebanese coast Tuesday night.

Israel expels Gaza resident

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities ordered the expulsion of a Palestinian they accused of heading a commando youth movement in the occupied Gaza Strip, military sources said. They said Mohammed Youssef Dahlan of Khaz Yunis was expelled for subversive activities, incitement and instructing others to carry out subversive actions on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

King praises France's readiness to help revive Mideast peace efforts

Monarch says U.S. credibility 'almost zero'

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday praised France's readiness to play a positive role to revive peace efforts in the Middle East and help the region overcome the numerous economic difficulties and challenges facing it.

At a dinner hosted by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor in honour of French President Francois Mitterrand and Mrs. Mitterrand, King Hussein expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the three-day Jordanian-French talks. "We constantly look forward to more meetings to discuss matters that are of interest to both peoples," the King said, adding that his talks with the French leaders had been a driving force for further strengthening and consolidating the French-Jordanian ties. King Hussein told Mr. Mitterrand that Jordan was certain that France would continue to exert all efforts which

aim at achieving justice for all world causes based on freedom, fraternity and equality. King Hussein described President Mitterrand as "an outstanding and distinguished statesman who is deeply committed to promoting peace, freedom and a better human life." The King said that Their Majesties were looking forward for the expected return visit to Jordan by the French President and Mrs. Mitterrand, during which "Jordan will demonstrate to France its sincere appreciation."

Their Majesties, who arrived in France two days ago for a three day state visit, spent their last day in the south west city of Toulouse, centre of the French Aerospace Industry. Their Majesties were accompanied by French Defence Minister Andre Giraud. Their Majesties were expected to arrive in Rome today on the second leg of their European tour. Also on Wednesday, Prince Minister Zaid Rifai, who is accompanying King Hussein on his current visit to Europe, held talks with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac. They discussed Franco-Jordanian relations and efforts being made for convening an international conference on the Middle East. The meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, also discussed France's role within the European Community to help implement Jordan's five year plan in the East Bank and a five year development programme for the occupied West Bank. In an interview broadcast by Paris-based Radio Monte Carlo,

(Continued on page 5)

Klibi: 'Camps war' breakthrough imminent

BEIRUT (R) — A top Arab League official said Wednesday a breakthrough was imminent in efforts to halt the 16-week-old "camps war" between Palestinians and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen in Lebanon. "The camps war shall witness breakthroughs within the next 24 hours," Mr. Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the 21-member league, told reporters after meeting Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. A seven-man Arab League committee, headed by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi and accompanied by Mr. Klibi, also discussed with President Amin Gemayel and Shi'ite Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Housseini its plans to end the fighting. Official sources said the committee's four-point plan was a ceasefire, lifting of sieges at

3 killed in renewed fighting at Beirut camps

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian commandos and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen fought fierce overnight battles at two Beirut refugee camps, sources on the two sides said Wednesday. They said heavy fighting erupted Tuesday night with artillery shells and rocket-propelled grenades slamming in and around Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian settlements. Amal said 10 civilians were wounded when crowded Shi'ite areas in southern Beirut came under fire. Palestinians said three people were killed and 12 wounded at Bourj Al Barajneh. The sources said fighting later died down, but sniper fire and occasional explosions continued to echo from the camps. A statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine put the casualty toll at Shatila at 61 killed and 266 wounded since fighting erupted there two months ago.

(Continued on page 5)

Saudi kidnapped in Beirut as Waite pursues mission

BEIRUT (R) — A top Muslim militia official described Lebanon Wednesday as crime ridden and advised foreigners to keep off Beirut's streets as a Saudi Arabian diplomat was reported missing in the western sector of the city. "I don't advise foreigners to walk the streets... The situation in Lebanon is plagued with crime with a capital C," the vice-president of the Shi'ite Amal militia, Akel Haidar, told British Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite. Mr. Waite arrived in Beirut two days ago to continue his mission of seeking freedom for foreign hostages in Lebanon. Police said Saudi diplomat Bakr Damanhuri, responsible for Saudi students' affairs at Beirut universities, had not been seen since arriving by plane from

Kampelman briefs NATO allies on Geneva arms talks

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. arms control negotiator Max Kampelman outlined their strategy for a new round of talks with the Soviet Union with Washington arguing that the next move must come from Moscow. A NATO spokesman said U.S. chief negotiator Max Kampelman and his two colleagues in the U.S. delegation gave a detailed report to the 16 NATO heads of mission ahead of the seventh round of talks opening Thursday in Geneva. Meanwhile Moscow's new high-powered arms negotiator flew into Geneva Wednesday saying he hoped to achieve "some success" at the new round of talks. First Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Vorontsov told reporters at Geneva airport that he hoped to solve some of the problems facing the negotiators. "That's what we intend to do with Kampelman," he said. The Soviet Union announced Tuesday that Mr. Vorontsov would replace veteran diplomat Viktor Karpov as chief Soviet arms negotiator. It said the change was aimed at giving the 22-month-old talks new impulse and dynamism.

Murphy: Arabs, Israelis serious about peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy said Wednesday he was convinced that Arab and Israeli leaders want to press ahead with peace efforts despite differences over ways to begin negotiations. "I am returning to Washington... convinced of the seriousness of purpose about advancing the peace process here, in Jordan and in Egypt," he told reporters on the last day of his latest Middle East shuttle. Mr. Murphy, assistant secretary of state, briefed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his talks in Amman and Cairo and told him there was no change in basic disagreements over ways to



AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Six new ambassadors to Jordan on Wednesday present their credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at ceremonies held at the Royal Court. The new ambassadors are from left to right: Mohammed Fadel Ould Al Dah of Mauritania, Mr. Todor Cuman of Romania, Lars Lonnback of

Sweden, Romaro Balon of Uruguay, Lieutenant-General Hussein Sayyed of Pakistan and Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim of Bahrain. The presentation ceremonies were attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid. Acting Foreign Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Dr. Bassam Al Saket, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court (Petra photos)

Iraq says Iranian town in ruins as heavy ground battle continues

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes left the Western Iranian town of Ilam in ruins Wednesday in a retaliatory raid after a third Iranian missile smashed into Baghdad in four days. The Iranian holy city of Qom, south west of Tehran, was also bombed during a day in which Iraqi aircraft flew 363 combat missions as heavy ground fighting continued on the central and southern warfronts. (Tehran said 25 civilians were killed and 100 wounded in the attack on Qom. There were no immediate reports on casualties at Ilam, which lies some 40 kilometres from the Iraqi border almost due east of Baghdad). In Baghdad, meanwhile, thousands of singing and dancing Iraqis took to the streets after the high command reported a victory over Iranian attackers on the central front north east of the capital. "All Iranian forces that seized some positions in the central sector were captured or killed and the invaders were completely defeated," a military communique said. The communique also reported continued fighting on the southern front near Iraq's second city of Basra. It said Iranian forces had launched attacks Tuesday night and on Wednesday to regain lost positions south east of the Fish Lake some 10 kilometres from Basra. Iranian artillery fire on Basra, with a population of one million, killed six people and wounded 16, while five people were wounded in an air raid on a town in northern Iraq, it added.

This brought Iraqi civilian casualties in the "war of the cities" since Iran launched its southern offensive early last Friday to 88 killed and 496 wounded. These figures do not include casualties from the missile attacks on Baghdad which officials have not disclosed. The International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to both sides Tuesday to halt attacks on civilian targets. The Iraqi communique said Iraq's Second Army Corps, defending the central sector east of Baghdad, destroyed the attacking force but a contingent had occupied a small border post. It said Iran used regular army troops as a spearhead in the cross-border attack for the first time in the six-year-old conflict.

(Continued on page 5)

Syria wants OIC to discuss terrorism

KUWAIT (R) — Syria wants an Islamic summit meeting due to be held in Kuwait later this month to discuss its proposals for an international conference on terrorism.

Syria's ambassador to Kuwait, Issa Darwish, said in remarks published Wednesday Damascus had asked for the issue to be put on the Jan. 26-28 summit agenda. "Islam is facing a new crusade which was striving to create sectarian, ethnic and regional problems in order to damage the resources of the Arab and Islamic nations and to spread war among Islamic countries," Mr. Darwish told Al Sayassah newspaper. He said there was a need to counter this jointly by defining the common enemy and then achieving economic, cultural, political and military cooperation between Islamic states. Syria last month proposed the setting up of an international commission which, Mr. Darwish said, should seek within the framework of international law "to differentiate between terrorism and revolutions for the sake of national independence."

Senator Abu Tayeh dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Wednesday mourned the passing away of House member Mohammad Odeh Abu Tayeh who died on Wednesday, aged 77. Born in Ma'an in 1910, the late Senator served as member of the Upper House several times since 1947. He is also a prominent tribal figure. He will be buried today in the royal cemetery. On Wednesday evening His Royal Highness Prince



Mohammad Odeh Abu Tayeh, personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, visited the home of the late Sen. Abu Tayeh to convey his condolences.

Bush denies discussing contras with Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Vice President George Bush sent Foreign Minister Shimon Peres a memo to reassure the Israeli leader that he never discussed funneling money to Nicaraguan rebels with a Peres aide, a government official said Wednesday. The letter, which arrived Monday, was "very friendly" and stressed that the Iranian arms affair would not harm U.S.-Israeli relations, the official told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The letter appeared to be part

of a drive by Washington to defuse tensions with Israel over who was responsible for the affair, in which Israel shipped American weapons to Iran. Another letter was sent this week from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Israeli officials had expressed concern that they might be made a scapegoat in the controversial arms deal after the White House issued a memorandum last week written by former National Security Adviser John Poindexter. The memo claimed Israel had

initiated the arms deal. According to other allegations raised in American newspapers, Mr. Bush and Mr. Peres' adviser, Amiram Nir, discussed transferring funds paid by Iran for U.S. arms to the contras during a private meeting in Washington. The government official said the Bush letter included minutes from that meeting between Mr. Bush and Nir and Mr. Bush said he sent it to show that the two men never discussed transferring money from arms sales to the contra rebels of Nicaragua.

5 troops, 10 rebels die in Sri Lankan clashes

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (R) — Tamil guerrillas blasted an army convoy in north-west Sri Lanka Wednesday killing five soldiers, rebel sources here said. They said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the biggest guerrilla group fighting for a separate Tamil state, set off a landmine under an armoured personnel carrier in Mannar district. The government said Wednesday 10 Tamil militants were killed when a naval patrol boat fired at a vessel bringing them from south India on Monday night. It said the navy opened fire off the Jaffna coast after the militants ignored orders to stop. Rebel sources told Reuters that LTTE leader Velupillai

Tutu 'may support' armed struggle against apartheid

SYDNEY (R) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa said Wednesday he was not a pacifist and might support armed struggle against apartheid at some point. The church also would support armed struggle when all other avenues had failed, the Nobel Prize-winning churchman told a press conference at the end of his week-long visit to Australia. He said the South African government was "on the brink," and called on the international community to exert pressure on Pretoria while there was still an outside chance of dismantling apartheid. "There is a point, though, where I would support armed struggle. I am not a pacifist. I am a

peacekeeper, but there will come a time when we have to make a choice between two evils, and which is the lesser evil," he said. Tutu said he supported the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), but not its violent methods. "I want a non-violent, democratic, just and non-racial South Africa. The ANC wants the same thing, but has been forced by the South African government to adopt armed struggle," he added. Tutu, who met Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Foreign Minister Bill Hayden Tuesday night, said he did not press for any special assistance. "I was speaking with friends and didn't have to be pushing a door that is already open."

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Locusts, swarming across Africa, threaten Mideast Jordan may be affected soon

By Mort Rosenblum
The Associated Press

ROME — Desert locusts, breeding at alarming rates in Sudan, have spread across the Red Sea to the Arabian peninsula and threaten South Asia, experts warn.

"Everyone was so busy looking at other problems in Sudan and the Sahel, we didn't look early enough at desert locusts," said Lukas Brader of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"If they get out of control, they could reach India and Pakistan," said Brader, director of the FAO's locust control centre, in an interview this week. "This is potentially very threatening."

Fifteen aircraft have sprayed wide areas of northern and western Sudan for weeks, he said, but at least 100 small swarms remain uncontrolled.

A locust swarm can cover more than 2.6 square kilometres, with 50 million insects — each two inches (5 cm) long — capable of devastating 100 tonnes of vegetation a day.

At the same time, grasshoppers menace 125 million acres across the Sahel, just south of the Sahara, he said. New eggs are breeding in wild grassland after fresh rains.

Massive air spraying will be necessary to control the grasshoppers when they emerge late in the spring.

Last year, donors contributed \$50 million to FAO locust and grasshopper campaigns. However, 10 per cent of the crop

was lost. If conditions remain similar, FAO estimates say, damage will be greater this year. FAO has already earmarked \$40 million to combat the Sahel grasshoppers this year, and still has not determined what was needed against the locusts.

Brader said locust spraying was far less effective because teams could not use dieldrin, a pesticide related to DDT which remains active six weeks on the ground.

"We can't use it anymore," he said. "Too many environmental objections in the United States and Europe. We're using pesticides active for two or three days, and they don't do the job."

Chemists are working on new types of pesticides with a residual effect of at least several weeks.

Now, Brader said, aircraft are spraying ahead of the swarms and by the time the insects reach the treated vegetation, the poison has dissipated.

Locusts bred until mid-December in remote desert regions of Sudan where they went largely unnoticed. With winter breeding, and the insects are multiplying and spreading into Saudi Arabia.

Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and

Kuwait may be affected soon.

Anti-locust teams are scrambling to control the swarms in the Saudi coastal areas before they disperse into the centre of the vast desert region.

"Who knows if we'll be able to get to them if that happens," Brader acknowledged.

Routinely, specialists locate desert locust breeding grounds with a combination of satellite image, ground spotting and scientific detective work.

Locusts need a certain level of grass and ground cover to breed. When likely combinations are located, teams hurry in and spray before swarms can form.

"It just comes rolling out of the computer, and there is still time to go," Brader said. But the current swarms developed in scattered areas, catching prevention teams off guard.

With grasshoppers, the problem is more difficult. They are widely spread in normal times but remain mostly in wild vegetation. After droughts, they invade crops.

Eggs remain dormant in the ground and as soon as rains come they appear simultaneously over vast areas.

A smaller problem was feared with brown locusts swarming from South Africa to Botswana and Namibia, Brader said.

But a feared plague of African migratory locusts in central and eastern Africa "appeared to peter out," as did a threat of red locusts, he said.

wreath at a bronze statue of Maj. Haddad as Arab boy scouts beat drums and blew bagpipes. A church service was held in Maj. Haddad's memory.

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition he was not identified, said the 2,500-member SLA had faced raids on its outposts by Hizbollah fighters, who attacked in groups of 50 to 100.

Israeli retaliation against the fundamentalist organisation was difficult because Hizbollah commandos had established outposts among civilians in village houses and mosques.

In Marjayoun, Gen. Peled laid a

Shi'ite Hizbollah group.

Asked by reporters if Israel planned to deploy more troops in South Lebanon in response to the offensive, Gen. Peled said: "For the time being, we do not see a need to change things."

Israel maintains hundreds of troops in the buffer zone inside the Lebanese border which it declared in June 1985 after withdrawing the bulk of its forces.

"I suggest we leave things in the right perspective," Gen. Peled said. "The SLA has gone through a difficult period and, I am convinced we will find the way to overcome the situation."

In Marjayoun, Gen. Peled laid a

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. symposium on Mideast cancelled

TEL AVIV (R) — A symposium on the Middle East due in California later this month was cancelled because Israel banned two Palestinian leaders from attending, legislator Abba Eban said Wednesday. Eban, listed to take part in the symposium, said he was convinced Shmuel Goren, the army's coordinator for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, was behind the decision to refuse travel permits to former Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe and Gaza lawyer Faez Abu Rahme. Sources close to Goren said he feared the two would meet "hostile elements" while abroad if they were permitted to attend the conference at the University of San Diego.

Brazil sends missiles to Mideast

SANTOS, Brazil (R) — Brazil Wednesday shipped 1,000 tonnes of locally-produced ground-to-ground rockets to the Middle East, a spokesman for the country's largest port said. Brazilian press reports speculated some of the rockets are destined for Iraq, embroiled in a six-year war with Iran. However, the spokesman for the port of Santos would confirm only that the cargo was shipped in 64 containers aboard the Qatar-registered vessel Fathulhikr. The missiles were manufactured by Avibras, a private arms firm, and officials declined to confirm their destination. The spokesman said there was no confirmation that part of the weapons would go to Iraq.

UNICEF to move Gulf office to Riyadh

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will move its Gulf regional office from Abu Dhabi to Riyadh and close its representative office in Bahrain, a press statement said. It said the restructuring, effective June 1, was aimed at increasing cooperation with institutions of the Riyadh-based Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Thousands of dugong found in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — Several thousand dugong, the rare sea mammal once feared to be facing extinction in the Gulf, have been found in an aerial survey of the region. "The results are very exciting. They show the Gulf is indeed an important area for dugong on the world scale," said Tony Preen of Saudi Arabia's Environmental Protection Agency. He said in a report published in a United Arab Emirates Natural History newsletter that three large groupings of the shy animals, believed to have given rise to the mermaid legend, had been located.

Palestinians seek to reunite families

TEL AVIV (AP) — Palestinian and Israeli attorneys have called on Israel to lift restrictions that force hundreds of Arabs in the occupied territories to live apart from spouses and children. Most of the divided families are composed of Palestinians married to foreign citizens who have been denied residence permits by Israel's military government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the lawyers said at a news conference. Israeli attorney Leah Tsemel said hundreds of families were denied permits annually without any reason given. Many wait five to 10 years for a reply, she said. Mrs. Tsemel accused Israel of discriminating between Jews and Arabs on the issue.

Suharto discusses Gulf war with Ershad, Iran envoy

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian President Suharto Wednesday discussed the Gulf war with an Iranian envoy and Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

The Iranian envoy also kept up pressure to shift the venue of a Jan. 26 Islamic summit to Pakistan from Kuwait because Tehran maintains Kuwait is not neutral and sides with Iraq in the protracted Gulf conflict.

Gen. Ershad, here on a five-day state visit to Indonesia, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Jawad Mansuri had separate meetings with Mr. Suharto Wednesday morning to discuss the war, and Iran's threatened boycott of the summit.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry officials told Reuters in Dhaka that Gen. Ershad would discuss prospects for an initiative by Indonesia and Bangladesh, the world's two most populous Muslim states, to help end the conflict, now in its seventh year.

But Mr. Suharto appears to have played down the idea during a two-hour meeting with Gen. Ershad, and the Bangladesh president made no mention of the proposal at a press conference.

Bangladesh, a member of the peace committee of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which has tried unsuccessfully to force a Gulf war settlement, has urged Iran to attend the Kuwait summit.

Briefing reporters about talks with Mr. Mansuri, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said Mr. Suharto had only listened to Iran's reasons for the boycott and did not attempt to encourage a change of heart.

Mr. Mochtar, who last year visited Amman and Baghdad, is due to go to Tehran shortly, he said. But he stressed Indonesia was not interested in a mediatory role in the conflict.

He said Iran was still pressing for war reparations from Iraq, and wanted Baghdad labelled as the aggressor. Mr. Mochtar did not say when he would leave for Tehran.

Carter urges revelation of facts on Iran arms deal

CLEVELAND (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter, urging President Ronald Reagan to quickly uncover the facts about the Iran arms affair, has suggested that the threat of a court-martial be used against Adm. John Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver North.

Mr. Carter indicated it is still not too late for the Reagan administration to get Col. North and Adm. Poindexter to talk about the arms deal.

"They are still active-duty officers and the Secretary of Defence, (Caspar) Weinberger, could very well call them in and ask them the same question," Mr. Carter said.

The question would be, Mr. Carter said, "I demand to know, with the threat of a court-martial there, what happened to the money, how much was shipped, under what circumstances were weapons shipped to Iran."

Brzezinski suggests Syrian, Algerian troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (R) — Peacekeeping forces from nations such as Algeria and Syria could be stationed in Afghanistan as a temporary measure after Soviet forces have withdrawn, Zbigniew Brzezinski, a top aide in the administration of President Jimmy Carter, said on Tuesday.

The Soviet Union, which Western experts estimate has 115,000 troops in Afghanistan, has recently shown signs of wanting to end its involvement there and the Kabul government has proposed a six-month ceasefire due to start later this week.

Dr. Brzezinski, national security adviser under President Carter, told a Senate armed services committee hearing the United States should step up pressure on Moscow to end its intervention in

Afghanistan by increasing military aid to Afghan rebels.

Once the Soviet Union has withdrawn the forces it has maintained in Afghanistan since the end of 1979, peacekeeping forces from pro-Soviet nations could be sent in pending consolidation of a new Afghan government, he said.

"As a temporary expedient, peacekeeping forces from Islamic countries not unfriendly to the Soviet Union but still independent of Moscow such as Algeria and Syria could be stationed in Afghanistan upon the prompt removal of Soviet forces," Dr. Brzezinski said.

He said the United States should at the same time seek to bolster Pakistan and Iran to help them resist Soviet incursions.

Libyans seek compensation from Turkey and Italy

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The Libyan masses have demanded that Turkey compensate Libya for the "horrific crime" of surrendering control of Libya to Italy 75 years ago, the official news agency JANA reported Tuesday.

A JANA report monitored in Cairo listed the demand among actions of the basic people's congresses, which began regular meetings around the country at the weekend.

The congresses are supposed to set national policies under the Jamahiriya, or masses, system of government Col. Muammar Qadhafi implemented in 1977.

JANA reported that the congresses had condemned U.S. and French actions in Chad and renewed a demand that Italy pay reparations for "the moral and material damage inflicted by its crimes against the Libyans."

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PROGRAMME TWO

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FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:05 Programme review
18:10 Cartoons and children programme
18:15 Toy Box III
18:20 Friday's Prayer
18:25 Sport Magazine
18:30 Religious seminar
18:35 Arabic series
18:40 Variety programme
18:45 Jane Eyre
18:50 Arabic series
18:55 Viewer's choice (Arabic)
19:00 News programme
19:05 Programme review
19:10 News in Arabic
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz

06:00 Newsday

06:00 Newsday 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Football: Chelsea vs. The World Today 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Masterpiece in Miniature 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sing Gospel 09:45 Newsday 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Country Style 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Body Talk 12:00 News Summary: Look What They've Done to our Song 12:30 King Street Junior 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 News 13:25 A Letter from England 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsday 14:15 Multitrack 2 — Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Patrick Marry's Music Box 16:00 Outlook: Opening with News Summary 16:45 Nashville Cats 17:00 Radio Newsday 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 17:30 World News 18:00 Newsday 18:15 Newsday 18:30 Newsday 18:45 Newsday 18:55 Newsday 19:00 Newsday 19:15 Newsday 19:30 Newsday 19:45 Newsday 19:55 Newsday 20:00 Newsday 20:15 Newsday 20:30 Newsday 20:45 Newsday 20:55 Newsday 21:00 Newsday 21:15 Newsday 21:30 Newsday 21:45 Newsday 21:55 Newsday 22:00 Newsday 22:15 Newsday 22:30 Newsday 22:45 Newsday 22:55 Newsday 23:00 Newsday 23:15 Newsday 23:30 Newsday 23:45 Newsday 23:55 Newsday 24:00 Newsday

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1240 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 13210 KHz

05:00 News

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:30 Newsline 06:50 News 07:00 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 07:50 News 08:00 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:50 News 09:00 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:50 News 10:00 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:50 News 11:00 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 11:50 News 12:00 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 12:50 News 13:00 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 13:50 News 14:00 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 14:50 News 15:00 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 15:50 News 16:00 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 16:50 News 17:00 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 17:50 News 18:00 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 18:50 News 19:00 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 19:50 News 20:00 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 20:50 News 21:00 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 21:50 News 22:00 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 22:50 News 23:00 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 23:50 News 24:00 Newsline

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 French film
18:05 News in French
18:10 French Varieties
18:15 News in Hebrew
18:20 History of Medicine
18:25 News in Arabic
18:30 Theatre (Comedy)
18:35 Western Preview
18:40 Falcon Crest
18:45 News in English
18:50 News in English
18:55 News in English
19:00 News in English
19:05 News in English
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luwadih (until Jan. 23).
* An exhibition of photographs entitled "The Village" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).
* An art exhibition by Sa'ad Ali at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
Jabal Al Qadr (Coptic H.H.): 9:00 a.m. Mass, 5:00 p.m. Mass.
Jabal Luwadih (Greek Orthodox): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
Jabal Luwadih (Greek Orthodox): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
Jabal Luwadih (Greek Orthodox): 10:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass.
Jabal Luw

Senate refers 6 draft laws to committees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Wednesday referred six draft laws pertaining to contractors, the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) and the appropriation of land to its various committees.

The 24 Senate members, who attended the session, secured a quorum in the 30-member legislative body and unanimously voted in favour of referring the temporary laws to both legal and financial committees. The draft laws were passed to the Senate after discussion and endorsement by the Lower House of Parliament last week.

One temporary draft law on the ARA, two draft laws on the appropriation of land, one on contractors and one pertaining to youth care were sent to the legal committee, whilst the financial committee was entrusted with assessing and ratifying a draft law on a loan agreement. The loan to be made available from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), is to set up a joint Jordanian-Syrian venture for producing insecticides and had been endorsed without amendments by the House.

The long-awaited 1986 draft law on contractors is designed to

support the construction sector in the Kingdom and would give the Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) the upper hand over foreign and multinational contracting companies.

Under the law, Jordanian and foreign companies operating in the Kingdom will not be allowed to take local tenders unless they are members of the JCA. Prior to this law, contractors were registered under the umbrella of the Jordan Engineers Association.

As preconditions to win construction projects in Jordan, foreign contractors should be registered with official contracting concerns in their country of origin, must be members of the JCA, and should employ Jordanian manpower.

Under the new legislation, contractors who do not adhere to the construction code and articles of the law will face penalties, one of which will be prohibiting the company from conducting business for a period not exceeding one year.

Youth activities

The law on youth care, which went to the legal committee, authorises the Ministry of Youth to supervise all youth activities in Jordan, a task which had previously been carried out by the Youth Welfare Association.

Wednesday's ten-minute session was chaired by the Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and attended by the deputy prime minister and seven Cabinet ministers. Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed and several members of the House also attended the session.

The 1984 draft law on the ARA defined the status of the Aqaba region's 11-member council and increased the number of members appointed by the prime minister from two to three.

Land appropriation

According to the appropriation of land law, which was amended by the Lower House, the government, official organisations or municipalities can take control of real estate or land for public use. In return, the government or the concerned municipal council should pay appropriate compensation to the landowners.

If the owner is not satisfied with the amount of compensation, a special committee should be set up to look into grievances and complaints. Under the law, the owner can reclaim his property from the government or the organisation through a court order if the appropriated estate had not been used for the stated purpose three years after it has been taken.

Abducted Jordanian businessman returns home from Beirut

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mr. Tawfiq Abu Khajil returned to Amman Monday after being held in captivity for two days in Beirut. Mr. Abu Khajil, a Jordanian businessman who was in Lebanon to buy products for his company, related his experience to the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

"On the way to the airport on Wednesday we (one Jordanian, me, and two Christian Lebanese men) were stopped at a roadblock 500 metres after the Amal checkpoint."

He said that he did not know what faction his kidnappers belonged to but "they were armed and bearded."

As the kidnappers drove us away blindfolded, they said "do you know you are with Hizballah." We will kill you all one by one, the first being the driver who is in the truck," said Mr. Abu Khajil.

However he was not convinced that they were Hizballah or that the driver was in the truck. "First we were told the driver was with us then we were told he ran away."

Mr. Abu Khajil said he believes that the driver was in league with the kidnappers and that "he was the one who informed the kidnappers that I am a Jordanian."

"I think the kidnapping happened because of my nationality; after knowing I was a Jordanian, he said."

"The kidnappers said 'if it was

not for you (Jordan), we would be in peace' meaning the Iran-Iraq war would be over." Jordan is a staunch ally of Iraq.

After this brief interrogation, Mr. Abu Khajil said, he was placed in a one metre by one metre cell for two days without any water or food. He was also blindfolded and hand-cuffed and beaten on the soles of his feet at least three times a day.

"I did not know night from day, but I heard prisoners screaming. The prisoner in the cell next to mine kept yelling 'kill me with bullets instead of torturing me'."

Mr. Abu Khajil experienced similar feelings. "As I waited for death from one moment to the next, I gave up. All I could think of was 'God help us'," he said.

Meanwhile when Mr. Abu Khajil did not arrive in Jordan on schedule, his family contacted Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas who is a personal friend of the family.

The Syrian minister "exerted his influence to secure our release by Friday evening," Mr. Abu Khajil said.

On the way to the port of Jounieh in east Beirut "one of the men kept hitting my head which was on the floor covered with my jacket," he said.

The three men slept one night at a Syrian forces camp during which his Lebanese companions told Mr. Abu Khajil that they too were beaten during the two-day ordeal.

The following day, Mr. Abu Khajil took a ferry to Cyprus and then flew to Jordan on Monday.

Haj Hassan promises ministry assistance to voluntary societies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said Wednesday that his ministry will not hesitate to provide assistance to voluntary societies to help them carry out humanitarian programmes and improve the condition of disadvantaged persons especially children.

Speaking during a visit to a rehabilitation centre run by the Queen Alia Society for the Rehabilitation of the Hearing-Impaired, the minister paid tribute to all those involved in voluntary and charitable activities. He said their humanitarian work enable handicapped children to become

useful members of society. He said that the centre, the only one of its kind in Jordan which offers help to children with hearing problems, is one of the Ministry of Social Development's programmes aimed at serving Jordanian society.

The minister toured different sections of the Institute and was briefed on various programmes aimed at helping deaf and partially deaf children learn to speak with the use of special aids and with the help of specialists.

The minister was accompanied on his visit by Mr. Mohammad Wardam, under-secretary of the Ministry of Social Development.

Jordan marks Arbor Day today

Ministry of Agriculture organises nationwide tree planting effort with emphasis on fruit bearing saplings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today observes Arbor Day with tree-planting celebrations in various governorates of the Kingdom.

The main celebration will be held under royal patronage near the Queen Alia International Airport where no less than 11,000 tree saplings, mostly olives, will be planted, according to Ministry of Agriculture sources.

This year's celebrations will be different from previous years because most of the saplings to be planted this season will be olives and other fruit trees, according to Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hamud. He said that upon His Majesty King Hussein's directives, the Ministry of Agriculture has made arrangements to plant as many fruit trees as possible in a bid to help the national effort towards achieving food security.

At least nine million saplings were produced by the Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries in 1986 and these will be supplied to Jordanian citizens, organisations and schools to be planted in different regions, the minister continued.

The ministry, in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), has worked out a plan to plant 25,000 dunums of land around the international airport and the saplings to be planted on Thursday will be the first batch of trees in the project, according to Mr. Ghaleb Abu Arrah, director of the ministry's Range and Afforestation Department.

Mr. Abu Arrah said that the total area of land covered with forest trees in Jordan is estimated at 1.3 million dunums, nearly 1.4 per cent of the total area of Jordan. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture now runs 12 nurseries which produce an average of seven million saplings a year.

Jordan, he said, has been encouraging tree planting since the early days of independence. The first Arbor Day celebration in Transjordan was observed in 1939 at a ceremony held at Al Qala'a, (the Citadel) district of Amman under the patronage of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Kingdom.

Mr. Mahmoud Yassin, director of the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that Jordan used to be covered with

many forests but these were cut down during Ottoman rule for building purposes and for fuel, or destroyed by animals grazing in the region.

Another reason, for the depletion of forest areas he said, was the introduction of machines and vehicles early this century which enabled sheep and cattle breeders to transport their animals to regions with good water resources, and these animals consumed the vegetation and destroyed the trees. Mr. Yassin said.

According to Mr. Khalil Warikhat from the Afforestation Department, the Ministry of Agriculture plans to plant trees on 250,000 dunums of land between now and the year 1990. The trees will be planted in lands overlooking the Jordan Valley to prevent soil erosion, in the eastern regions of the Kingdom to stem the encroachment of deserts on arable land, along roads and in public gardens and national parks to encourage tourism. The ministry's nurseries produce various saplings to suit different climatic zones in Jordan and half these saplings will be distributed to citizens free of charge to help in the effort to green Jordan. Mr. Warikhat said.

Pastures

Mr. Mahmoud Abu Sitta, director of the Pastures Department at the Ministry of

Agriculture, said that 91.4 per cent of the total area of Jordan could serve as pasture land for animals. These areas, he said, lie in the dry regions, semi-desert areas and mountains. The Ministry of Agriculture has to date created 13 pasture reserves with a total area of 145,000 dunums and an additional 150,000 dunums of pasture land will be created during the five-year development plan. Mr. Abu Sitta continued.

Pasture lands, he said, are vital for Jordan because they help develop animal wealth and eventually provide the country with more meat and dairy products. Mr. Abu Sitta said that the World Food Programme (WFP) has been helping Jordan to reclaim 110,000 dunums of land and turn them into pasture land, adding that the project will be completed by the end of 1990. Other pasture projects are being carried out in the Hammam Basin area near the Iraqi border and near Lejoun in the Karak region. Mr. Abu Sitta added.

Meanwhile, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, distributed 22,000 tree saplings to 11 villages around the country. The trees will be planted on Arbor Day under the supervision of village councils in public squares and around homes, according to a NHF spokesman.

The Greater Amman region will celebrate Arbor Day in Sweileh on a land owned by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Mr. Khaled Al Omari, director of the Sweileh region, said that 2,501 trees will be planted in the celebration to form a public garden.

Seventh medical team returns from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — The seventh Jordanian medical mission returned from Sudan on Tuesday after two months of work at the Jordanian hospital in Kass which was set up by the Jordan National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan in Darfour region of West Sudan to support the people in the drought-stricken country. The mission comprised 16 doctors and nurses and has been replaced by the eighth medical mission which arrived in Sudan last Saturday.

The eighth mission comprises 20 doctors and nurses and they took with them large quantities of medicines, clothing for lepers, books, school materials and other items.

The inhabitants of Al Kass and Zalkhy areas hosted a farewell

party for the seventh medical mission in appreciation of the services they extended to the people there.

Meanwhile, sources at the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan said that a number of drinking water wells have been drilled and sterilised in Al Kass area and that the area's inhabitants have begun drinking from these wells. The committee received a collection of token gifts and personal letters from male and female school students in the Kass area to students in Sweileh schools.

Two months ago school students in Sweileh presented a collection of gifts and letters to the students in Al Kass area on the occasion of World Child Day.

JCA to present working paper at talks on Arab contracting sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Ali Abu Al Ragheb, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), and an accompanying delegation leave Amman for Casablanca Thursday to take part in the second general meeting of the Union of Arab Contractors (UAC).

The JCA's contribution to the Morocco meeting will be in the form of a working paper on "the Arab World's construction sector without a general policy and a higher strategy."

The Jordanian delegation will also attend a seminar to be held on the sidelines of the conference

entitled "the contracting science." Topics for discussion on the conference's three-day working agenda are wide ranging and include the election of the UAC president and vice president and an executive committee for the union's higher council.

The gathering will review the union's annual budget, prospects of readmitting Egypt to the union, the organisation's new internal charter and future projects and working plans.

The delegation includes JCA representatives in the UAC's higher council and members of the association's general assembly.

UNDP gears its activities to Jordan's development

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The basic mandate of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operations in Jordan is to assist the Jordanian government within the limits of its available resources and in response to the five-year national development plan of 1986-90, said Mr. Sarfraz Khan Malik, resident representative of the UNDP regional office.

"We have tried to gear our activities in light of the objectives of the five-year development plan," said Mr. Malik. Since the objectives are many, the UNDP office has entrusted the Ministry of Planning to decide the technical priorities and what role UNDP should play, he added.

Mr. Malik briefed the Jordan Times on the UNDP-assisted projects. We have been involved in several areas including science and technology, policy planning, education, civil aviation, and telecommunications," he said. Assistance was given to the Royal Scientific Society for the utilisation of solar and wind energy to meet electricity and water pumping needs in rural areas. UNDP was also involved in computerising a cadastral data system for the Lands and Surveys Department, and in training people to use the computer. "The computer has arrived and work is progressing smoothly," said Mr. Malik.

Furthermore, in the field of planning, the UNDP has provided international consultancy services to the Ministry of Planning. Half a million dollars was given by UNDP for regional development planning "in order to have balanced growth in the rural regions," he said.

The UNDP has collaborated with the Jordanian government and the World Bank to upgrade the educational systems in schools and vocational training. "Over \$2 million were put into this educational project which is the fourth of its kind and aims to improve the quality of secondary education and to expand the comprehensive school system," said Mr. Malik.

Civil aviation

Likewise another \$2 million was allocated to the field of civil aviation. "We have assisted the directorate of Civil Aviation in a

series of projects over the past 10 years," said Mr. Malik. He added that since Jordanian civil aviation "can now stand on its own feet and can train its own people, we can withdraw our assistance in this area." This is in accordance with the policy of self reliance which is part of any assistance from U.N. organisations. In addition, the UNDP has provided assistance to the telecommunications training college and the hotel training college. Moreover, experts in the agricultural area in the Department of Statistics have been provided by the UNDP.

The UNDP assistance is not only capital input. According to Mr. Malik, aid also comes in the form of international consultants who give expert advice and on-the-spot training, training at home and fellowships abroad, equipment from abroad, and administration support.

Future programme

As for the future, the programme proposed for 1987-91, "will be in the order of \$10.25m," he said. \$8.25 million will be UNDP grant assistance while the remaining \$2 million will be a government contribution. The programme, which is still in draft form, still needs to be endorsed by the UNDP council in New York and the Jordanian government.

One project includes the initiation of TOKTEN (The Transfer of Knowledge/Technology through Expatriate Nationals). This project is a multi-discipline programme which aims to bring expatriates to Jordan to share their knowledge, experience and skills with institutions here.

Another project aims at technical cooperation among developing countries. Mr. Malik said that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, during his visit to the U.N. offices on Tuesday, was enthusiastic about developing technology appropriate to the country.

The resident representative added that the UNDP will also assist in a labour market information system, the promotion of small projects in rural areas, forestation projects, export development, standardisation and quality control of industrial products, vocational training, enhancing the government's planning capacity and in establishing a citogenic laboratory.

"We will know more about the projects we are to embark on when the draft programme is approved," said Mr. Malik. Expected time is in June 1987 when the UNDP council meets. "However, we will continue to work on the many programmes which continue through 1987," he continued. The one-going UNDP projects include the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP) projects. UNFPA is providing assistance for family planning, mother and child health and training of women in community development and management, the latter involving about \$1 million UNFPA funds being implemented through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Mr. Malik believes "these are important socially and economically because if population growth is not controlled, then the assistance received will be nullified."

On-going projects

And WFP has three on-going projects pertaining to range management, feeding primary school children and agricultural development in the highland areas which involves WFP assistance of over \$17 million.

Mr. Malik has been involved with the U.N. for over a decade. His position as UNDP coordinator in the region was designated by the secretary general of the U.N. Presently, there are 36 people, five of whom are international staff, working at the UNDP in Jordan. In addition, the UNDP has provided three experts in the Ministries of Planning, Statistics and Mineral Resources.

Consultancies

Mr. Malik said that the UNDP preferred short-term consultants (one to two months) to come to the Kingdom "to answer immediate problems and return." He explained that this is because Jordan is not considered a less developed country, rather it is in the middle bracket. However, since the Kingdom has not reached the required per capita income and has high population growth, Jordan is still entitled to aid with priority given to UNFPA.

Fund allocation to each country is based on two elements, said



Sarfraz Khan Malik

Mr. Malik. The larger the country the larger the allocation, and the higher the GNP the lower the allocation. "Funds are directly in proportion to population and adversely proportioned to GNP," he said.

The input of funds has remained constant ever since the UNDP opened its offices in 1954. "However, during that time it was not called UNDP but the U.N. Special Fund and Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. It was changed to UNDP in 1965 and assistance was formalised that same year," explained Mr. Malik. This is fourth cycle of assistance that Jordan has received.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip have received \$11 million since 1980. A small office was established in East Jerusalem "for political reasons, assistance to the occupied territories is not controlled from Amman but from New York," said Mr. Malik. Individuals from the UNDP headquarters in New York visit the occupied territories and after talks with the local administration on its needs, arrangements are made, said Mr. Malik.

Mr. Malik who is a Pakistani national served his government for 27 years before joining the U.N. He has B.Sc. in civil engineering, a M.Sc. in irrigation engineering, and has done post-graduate work in economic planning. Before coming to Jordan, he was resident representative of UNDP in Turkey for seven years. His immediate concern is "to serve this country to the best of my ability in accordance with the UNDP policies and within the objectives of the Jordanian government."

NEWS IN BRIEF

O negative blood needed urgently

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French national living in Jordan is in a serious condition at Khalidi Hospital and is in need of blood. A spokesman for the French Embassy told the Jordan Times that Andrei Giblin, who is being treated for a liver ailment, could be undergoing surgery soon but needs additional quantities of O negative blood which is unavailable at the blood bank in Ashrafieh. The French Embassy has been issuing calls for O negative donors on Radio Jordan and television. The spokesman added that donors will receive payment for their donation which is desperately needed to save the patient's life. Mr. Giblin, who is married to a Jordanian, has been living and working in Jordan for the past 20 years.

Six die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Six people were killed and 112 others were injured in 383 road accidents which occurred in Jordan over the past week, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) bulletin issued on Wednesday. The bulletin said that 173 accidents occurred in Amman, 27 in Zarqa and 26 in the Irbid region. Last week's accidents registered 89 more than the previous week's figures and the number of deaths increased by 50 per cent.

W. Bank library services reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — The general conditions of public libraries in the occupied West Bank were reviewed during a meeting on Wednesday between Mr. Ali Toukan, from the public library of Nabulus and Dr. Ahmad Sharakas, director general of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA). They discussed library services to towns and villages in the occupied West Bank and means of developing them with DLDNA assistance and also ways to provide publications to Arab academic institutions in the occupied territory.

Jordanian products to go on display in Muscat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade's Trade Centres Corporation will organise a Jordanian industrial fair in Muscat, Oman, on Feb. 21 in implementation of an Omani-Jordanian trade agreement and in a bid to promote the marketing of Jordanian national products in Arab countries, according to corporation spokesman.

The spokesman said that the fair, to be held in cooperation with the Ministries of Industry and Trade and Tourism and the Amman Chamber of Industry, will sell Jordanian goods directly to

Omani citizens, organisations and merchants. The corporation has issued a circular about the 10-day fair to Jordanian businessmen and factories informing them about the event and requesting them to provide samples of their products before the end of this month to be shipped to Muscat, the spokesman continued. In addition to the products, the fair will also display posters and other items which depict Jordan's development and cultural heritage.

The corporation held similar fairs in Damascus, Tunis and Sana'a last year.

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Productive visit

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's state visit to France has been crowned with successes on more than one front. Not only did France declare its total and irrevocable support for convening an international conference on the Middle East, but it also supported the idea of convening a preparatory meeting to lay the groundwork for the international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council. French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac could not have been clearer when he stated that "France supports the idea of an international conference without any reservations, and will work in cooperation with the other concerned parties for holding it as soon as possible." Mr. Chirac went on to say that "the essential problem is to persuade that the United States that it is important for them to make an initiative which could, under conditions still to be decided, support the idea." The Americans, Mr. Chirac cautioned, should say exactly what their feelings are on the idea of holding the conference.

It should be recalled that Mr. Richard Murphy, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, had voiced his government's reservations over the idea of holding a preparatory meeting and even the international peace conference itself, during his most recent visit to the region, called instead for direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict. As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and a powerful member of the Western alliance, France could do a great deal to convince the United States to follow suit and act and talk more coherently on the idea of the conference. Of all the permanent members of the Security Council, only the U.S. appears to still be dithering over the idea and still continues to submit proposals which are neither appropriate nor acceptable to the Arab parties to the conflict. Jordan has made clear on more than one occasion and in more than one forum that it would never hold direct negotiations with Israel and that it still insists on convening an international peace conference where the parties to the conflict could negotiate under the umbrella of the United Nations and with the active participation and supervision of the permanent members of the Security Council.

As the reception accorded to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor was warm and friendly, so was the substance of the talks between the two sides. A strong and an unequivocal stand by France on the problems of the Middle East could surely contribute a lot to bring the U.S. into step with the international community and thus make the prospects of holding an international peace conference more real than ever.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: France concurs to Jordan's call

KING Hussein's call for an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East question drew strong support from France whose prime minister made it clear that his country backs all efforts for that conference and will work with its European partners to convene it as soon as possible. This statement reflects Europe's keen interest in preventing any foreign power to deal with the issue by itself because of the danger that such policy entails. The King has said at a banquet hosted in his honour by the French president that the policy of containment being applied by certain powers in the Middle East has transformed the Arab-Israeli conflict from an occupation issue into a real colonial question. Such policy is clearly directed against the interests of the people of the region and can be detrimental to world peace. Europe's efforts, as the King has said, are of dire need at this time since we believe that the U.S.-Israeli stands and policies will continue to be hostile to the Arabs, with Israel carrying out colonial measures in the Arab region and the United States giving its blessings and moral and material support for such policies. The only way out of the present dilemma, as the King said, lies with the international conference which is capable of finding a just and lasting solution through the involvement of all concerned parties in the peace-making process. The conference which would be held under United Nations auspices is a true manifestation of the respect that world nations have for the world organisation and its principles and values.

Al-Dustour: Rally Europe's help

KING Hussein said at a banquet in his honour in Paris that the Middle East question is now suspended between a state of paralysis and the prospects of a new outbreak of conflict. Such a situation, the King said, can only be defused through an international conference, away from superpower rivalry and foreign power attempts for imposing domination on the region through fuelling regional conflicts. Under King Hussein, Jordan has been seeking to prevent any containment of the issue by any single major force, and has been relentless in its efforts to mobilise Arab countries' resources and efforts and to rally support from world nations for the convening of an international meeting under United Nations auspices to find a solution for the chronic problem of the Middle East. Such a conference will no doubt adopt and implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that ensure the return of Arab land and an end to Israeli occupation. France has openly declared its support for the idea of this conference and it was probably France which prompted its European allies to issue the 1980 Venice Declaration in support of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful negotiations and the return of Arab land. Europe which is close to the Middle East region, is no doubt concerned about peace because it would like to maintain the strong social, trade and cultural relations between the two sides. For this to be achieved Europe's help is required now to enable this region to live in security and peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: France recognises Mideast dangers

FRENCH President Francois Mitterrand described Jordan as holding the key to peace in the Middle East. This statement at a banquet in honour of King Hussein, who is paying a visit to France, and the marked hospitality accorded to the King and the Queen during the visit, reflect France's deep understanding of Jordan's stand and its support for its endeavours for the achievement of peace and security in the region. France sees in King Hussein as playing a major role in this endeavour, and therefore, is of need of support and backing for his efforts. The King in his address at the banquet and his interview with the French daily Le Monde spoke openly about the serious dangers facing the Middle East, specially those inherent in the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land, the on-going Iran-Iraq war and the conflict in Lebanon. The monarch made it clear that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be brought to an end through international efforts at a conference that can ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions, and secure the return of Arab people to their homeland. King Hussein also urged world nations in general and the European countries in particular to help end the conflict in the Gulf that has caused so much sufferings and material losses. The King has thus conveyed to Europe Jordan's earnest drive to achieve peace and the need for genuine efforts to help achieve that goal.

Aides say dimensions of Reagan's crisis still unclear to him

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

WASHINGTON — As President Reagan prepares to make his annual state of the union address this month, aides say he apparently still does not fully understand the arms-for-Iran scandal which threatens to smirch his name.

Aides admit that 10 weeks into the crisis caused by revelation of the secret sale of arms to the radical Islamic government in Tehran and diversion of profits to U.S.-backed right-wing contra rebels in Nicaragua, Reagan has not read key documents pertaining to the policy.

"I don't know that the president is reading these documents, but I don't think that's a requirement because he has directed a number of individuals, a number of investigations to proceed and he has taken unprecedented action as far as allowing his cabinet and his personal staff to go to (Capitol) Hill and testify," says White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

Two special congressional committees and an independent prosecutor are investigating the entire matter amid a torrent of news leaks and public finger-pointing over who is to blame for the worst crisis of Reagan's presidency.

Former Reagan national security adviser Robert McFarlane is reported to have suggested a cover-up was arranged to conceal the fact that the president approved the arms shipments months before Reagan admits to having done so.

White House chief of staff Donald Regan in turn has accused McFarlane of giving the president bad advice on Iran.

A senior administration official told Reuters he believed many people were trying to absolve themselves of responsibility and were leaving Reagan exposed in the process.

At the same time, the official, who did not want to be identified, acknowledged that the Iran disclosures "do not say much" for Reagan's grasp of essentials.

Reagan will address a joint session of Congress on January 27 in his state of the union speech and aides say he plans to discuss the unabating uproar over the Iran arms-contra funds scandal.

Still unanswered some two months after the affair first surfaced are such basic questions as: Who originated the policy? When did it start? How much money was involved? Where did the funds go? And what laws if any were violated?

Related questions have arisen as a result of disclosures that have spun off the Iran affair and the Reagan administration has been unable to answer most of them.

For example, the State Department says it does not know what happened to \$10 million supplied for the contras by the Sultan of Brunei.

"Ronald Reagan is not a detail

man. He puts a great deal of trust in his aides," said one White House insider.

Asked about the impression among Reagan's critics that he does not know or care much about foreign policy, this source replied: "I think that's right."

Aides admit Reagan did not read a background memorandum giving reasons for the secret arms operation before he authorised it on Jan. 17, 1986 — and has not read it to this day.

The memo, prepared by then national security aide Oliver North and presented to Reagan verbally by Admiral John Poindexter, then his national security adviser, described the initiative as an Israeli plan and said it might well be the only way to free five Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Reagan, who has publicly

opposed making any concessions to terrorists since he entered the White House, has repeatedly denied he traded arms for hostages.

Nor has he read other major documents to find out how proceeds from the covert Iran sales were used to circumvent a congressional ban on aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, aides say.

Reagan's detachment, which may be due in part to the fact that he is recovering from prostate surgery, has not enabled the 75-year-old president to escape political fallout from the scandal.

His job approval rating has fallen as much as 20 percentage points in some opinion polls since the arms deal first became public in November and recent surveys show growing public scepticism about his claim that he is doing all he can to get to the bottom of the scandal.

A White House official said in defence of the president, "In general, you will find that an awful lot of information is not going to be available until Office North and John Poindexter testify about this subject."

North was fired for his alleged role in the contra aid scheme on November 25 and Poindexter resigned the same day. Both have since refused to testify before congressional committees about the Iran affair, citing their constitutional right to avoid self-incrimination.

McFarlane, one ex-Reagan aide who is talking, has raised the spectre of the Watergate scandal, which drove Richard Nixon from office in disgrace, by suggesting a White House cover-up.

According to NBC news, McFarlane has told people that he, North and Poindexter con-

cocted a cover story to conceal the fact that Reagan approved arms shipments to Iran in August, 1985, months before the president admits having done so. McFarlane was Reagan's national security adviser at the time the shipments in question took place.

The timing of Reagan's approval is important not only to his credibility but as to whether his action was legal.

Four separate statutes may be pertinent:

— The arms export control act, which regulates and controls arms shipments in general and requires that Congress be notified of any shipment exceeding \$14 million.

— The export administration act, which generally bans the sale of goods to nations engaged in state-sponsored terrorism. Iran is on the State Department's terrorism list.

— The omnibus anti-terrorism act, which also bans U.S. exports to nations which sponsor terrorism.

— The national security act of 1947, which requires that Congress be notified of covert operations in "timely fashion".

McFarlane has reportedly testified under oath to Congress that Reagan verbally approved the 1985 arms shipments.

Such leading Democrats as House speaker Jim Wright say at least some laws were broken.

Legal experts say it is arguable whether a president can waive the laws in writing and even more doubtful that a verbal waiver is sufficient.

They say Reagan's claim that he notified Congress in timely fashion would be further strained if the Iran operation was in progress for nearly 18 months instead of 10 months.

But the legality of the arms sales is a relatively minor matter compared to the alleged transfer of millions of dollars in cash to the contras.

Although a congressional ban on aiding the contras in effect at the time carries no criminal sanctions, there are harsh criminal penalties for misappropriating funds.



"I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES. JOHN POINDEXTER MAKES MISTAKES. OLIVER NORTH MAKES MISTAKES. ISRAEL MAKES MISTAKES. SAUDI ARABIA MAKES MISTAKES..."

MacMillan: The passing of a great political master

The late Harold MacMillan — affectionately known as "Supreme" — was, by common consent, one Britain's two most successful post-war prime ministers, argues David Watt on the passing of the man who engineered Britain's movement to modernism and the final dissolution of the British Empire.

LONDON — Of British prime ministers since the war the two most successful, by common consent, have been Clement Attlee and Harold MacMillan. They were very different personalities and each had highly idiosyncratic virtues and faults. But they had this in common — that both were highly deceptive characters who, achieved quite radical results under a stylistic camouflage of deep traditionalism.

Both, too, gained their chief political impetus from the searing experience of the Flanders trenches in the First World War. It was Attlee's good fortune to attain the premiership at an age and at a moment in history when his radicalism was relevant; it was MacMillan's bad luck to reach the top of the greasy pole just too late.

Harold MacMillan's principal achievement as prime minister was to have presided over the final dissolution of the British Empire in such a way that Britain felt none of the political convulsions that contemporaneously shook France. He can also be said to have set Britain on the post-imperial path by applying to join the EEC and though this enterprise came to grief as a result of General de Gaulle's veto it is doubtful whether the subsequent success of Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Harold Wilson in their Common Market negotiations would have been possible without him.

Neither of these achievements could have been brought off without great political art and, in particular, mastery over the Conservative Party. This last was only possible as a result of another feat — the restoration of Conservative unity after Suez, a feat for which his party eventually repaid him in pretty shoddy coin.

MacMillan's failures can mostly be put down to the fact that he did not become prime minister until he was 62. By that time the experiences which had moulded his mind were rapidly becoming less relevant and his ability to adjust to new circumstances was becoming impaired. The young Conservative rebel of the 1920s, burning at the injustice of unemployment in his Stockton constituency, became the "expansion-at-all-costs" prime minister of the late 1950s.

He was responsible, with Selwyn Lloyd, for the introduction of a rudimentary incomes policy, but he never really understood the new dangers of inflation. The slogan "you never had it so good", while admittedly torn out

of context by his opponents, was an effective weapon against him because it reflected a certain wordy over-optimism in his political style.

His foreign policy also suffered from imperfect analogy with the past. Here the dominating experience of his life was his brilliantly successful period as British minister in Algiers from 1942 until the end of the war. The lesson he learnt was that Britain could get pretty much her own way by dint of tactful handling of the Americans — a lesson later dignified by MacMillan with the characteristic historical flourish: "Britain can be to America what Greece was to Rome."

The application of this principle served him in good stead in restoring relations with President Eisenhower after Suez. But it probably led him astray later on. The Nassau agreement of 1962 which gave Britain the Polaris missile was at once a vindication of MacMillan's strategy and a condemnation of it. His emotional appeal to the young President Kennedy prolonged the life of the British deterrent, but it was at odds with the realism of the retreat from Africa and the aspiration to work through the EEC as a part, but no more, of one of the two pillars of the Atlantic alliance.

MacMillan's age told against him in a less definable but possibly still more important fashion during the last three years he was prime minister. The elaborate amateur facade, the Edwardian mannerisms, the throw-away realism which had made the character of SuperMac so effective from 1956 to 1959, bored and even irritated a public which, after 1960, began to feel the need for something more dynamic, more classless and more purposeful.

MacMillan undoubtedly used his Edwardian persona quite deliberately (not for nothing was he called "the old entertainer") but it also reflected a basically 19th century High Tory paternalism in MacMillan's make-up. It was he, after all, who said that "if people want a sense of moral purpose they should go to their archbishops for it." The Profumo affair, which was more or less the last straw for him, would not have been nearly so damaging if it had not highlighted what was felt to be the anachronism of the MacMillan style.

Yet there is no doubt that he was an enormously able prime minister. His administrative abil-



Harold MacMillan

Harold MacMillan's principal achievement as prime minister was to have presided over the final dissolution of the British Empire in such a way that Britain felt none of the political convulsions that contemporaneously shook France. He can also be said to have set Britain on the post-imperial path by applying to join the EEC and though this enterprise came to grief as a result of General de Gaulle's veto it is doubtful whether the subsequent success of Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Harold Wilson in their Common Market negotiations would have been possible without him.

ity was abundantly proved at the Ministry of Housing where he had been side-tracked by Churchill in 1951 but where he scored a resounding success.

His ability to handle men and great affairs had been sharpened and tested in North Africa. His energy and tenacity and cunning, though carefully concealed, were never in question. His will, which many doubted in his younger days, had been hardened by war and perhaps by domestic unhappiness.

Over and above these essential elements of high competence he also possessed some qualities of another dimension — a deep historical sense, nourished by much reading throughout his life; a romantic sympathy deriving perhaps from his Highland forebears; and an unmistakable sense of style.

Maurice Harold MacMillan was born in London on February 10, 1894, the youngest of three sons of M.C. MacMillan and Helen Belles MacMillan. His

Westminster and he remained MP for Stockton, with a two-year break for 1929-31, for the next 21 years.

In the House of Commons he rapidly gained the reputation of a rebel. With other young Conservatives such as Robert Boothby and Oliver Stanley he espoused planning and Keynesian economics as the best antidote to the slump.

On foreign affairs he opposed appeasement and actually resigned the Conservative Whip for a year in 1936 in protest against the abandonment of sanctions against Italy. In the famous Oxford by-election of October, 1938, he supported the Independent Socialist candidate (the Master of Balliol) against the official Conservative candidate, Quintin Hogg (later Lord Hailsham).

After such a beginning it was not surprising that he was not given office under Baldwin or Chamberlain. Churchill appointed him junior minister at the Ministry of Supply, where he worked under Herbert Morrison and later under Lord Beaverbrook.

The latter experience was one where, he acknowledged, he learned much. It is doubtful, however, whether he would have emerged from the rack if he had not been spotted by that extraordinary judge of men, Brendan Bracken, then Churchill's parliamentary private secretary, who pressed MacMillan's claims to the key post of Minister in Algiers when two other obviously more eligible candidates had turned it down.

In North Africa, and subsequently in Italy, MacMillan's task was extraordinarily delicate. He had first to resolve the appalling intestine struggle between General de Gaulle and General Girard for the control of the legitimacy of the French State.

Subsequently there were Anglo-American tensions to be eased and the problem of the post-war political settlement in Italy and Greece to be tackled. MacMillan showed unsuspected political genius in these roles and by the end of the war was arguably the most influential individual in the entire Mediterranean theatre.

Defeated at Stockton in the August 1945 election MacMillan was rapidly reappointed for Bromley and re-entered the House in November. He made no particular impact in Opposition, however, and was only offered the Ministry of Housing in 1951. His decision to accept this apparently humiliating task was a turning point in his career, for it convinced the Conservative Establishment of his ability to get

things done.

At the end of the Churchill era he was rewarded with the Ministry of Defence but on Eden's succession, six months later, he was moved to the Foreign Office and again, after only nine months, to the Treasury. He had only time to introduce one Budget (of which Premium Bonds were the only memorable item) before the Suez crisis supervened.

MacMillan's role at Suez was undoubtedly an ambiguous one. At the outset he was in favour of vigorous action but it was he who effectively brought the operation to a halt when he told his colleagues that it was not financially viable in view of American opposition. His critics complained, with some justice, that he should have seen this earlier and that the "robustness" which caused him to be preferred to the more equivocal Butler in the subsequent race for the prime ministership was misguided if not actually spurious.

His own defence against this charge was that there was no way of knowing the depth of American opposition at the start and that he had acted with consistency and honour within the normal human limits. A longer historical perspective is probably required to resolve the question but there is no doubt that Suez made MacMillan and destroyed Butler.

Outside his strictly political activities MacMillan showed the temperament of a scholarly gentleman of the old school. He liked classical allusions and novels of Anthony Trollope. He read in German and French and the languages of antiquity for pleasure. He took a shrewd interest in the affairs of his family firm.

There was also, it must be said, the touch of the "Scotsman on the make" about him, and the grandeur of his connections by marriage and the pleasures of the grouse moor and the dining club obviously gave him satisfaction.

He was not a great orator but he was superb actor and played the part of the weary Titan and the elder statesman to particular perfection.

It was partly, no doubt, to satisfy this side of himself that he finally took his prime ministerial carillon more than 20 years after leaving office.

Of all the parts that he played the one that fitted him best — perhaps even better than the prime ministership — was that of Chancellor of Oxford University. Here his distinction, his learning, and his courteous malice found full play, and the functions of that office were the solace of a retirement which might otherwise have contained a touch of bitterness — Financial Times feature.



Miriam and Abdul Hamid Al Nawajbeh



Relatives shouting and waving their message across the heavily barbed border dividing Rafah

Stranded Palestinian refugees await return to Gaza Strip

From UNRWA

CUT off from his children and the home he built in 1977, a 75-year-old Palestinian refugee lives in one room behind the tiny grocery shop he and his wife run in Rafah refugee camp, the Gaza Strip.

Miriam and Abdul Hamid El Nawajbeh have been living like this since 1982 when the Israeli-Egyptian border was re-established and a security strip was cut through Rafah town, leaving a housing project with 5,000 Palestine refugees on the Egyptian side of the border.

In 1977 the Israeli occupation authorities demolished Abdul Hamid's shelter and a market was constructed in its place. He then built a new house, at his own expense in the Canada Housing Project quarter, where the authorities gave him a plot of land. He lived in the new house, only a few hundred metres away from his shop, with his wife, his son Jasser and his family, and his daughter Ibtidat.

Homes demolished for 'security' reasons

The Israeli authorities established seven housing projects to accommodate refugees. The scheme started when the authorities demolished hundreds of shelters in the eight refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to widen the roads for security reasons, in the early 1970s. By way of compensation, they provided plots of land for the refugees on which they built new homes at their own expense.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, provides education, health and relief services to the registered refugees

of the Gaza Strip. No matter where they live in the Strip — in camps, towns, villages or housing projects — their status as refugees and their eligibility for services is unaffected. Secure in this knowledge, refugees who could afford it were encouraged to build new houses in these housing projects. At present, around 40,000 of the 435,000 Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip have moved to such housing projects. On average, it has cost them \$30,000 each to build their new homes.

Some 5,000 refugees live in the Canada quarter. Named after the Canadian contingent of the U.N. Peace-keeping Force which was formerly based on this site, the Canada quarter was constructed not in the Gaza Strip but in the Sinai desert while it was under Israeli occupation.

The refugees' current problem started in 1979 when Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David accords, under which Israel agreed to withdraw from all Egyptian territories. Accordingly, in April 1982, the international border was re-established and the 5,000 Palestine refugees living in Canada quarter were stranded on the Egyptian side. The two governments agreed to resolve this problem in bilateral negotiations at a later date.

Families split

Abdul Hamid Nawajbeh saw his family split as did almost all the 512 families who had their homes in the Canada quarter. In order to keep his only source of income he decided to stay in the Gaza Strip, living in the back room of his shop furnished with a bed, a cupboard and a wooden box. His son Jasser, a manual labourer, remained with his family in the house in the Canada quarter, so did his sister

Ibtidat. Abdul Hamid meets his children at the international border, separated from them by the fences and the security strip. He waves to them and they shout their news. Before parting, they

arrange the next meeting. Visiting his children in Canada quarter would mean a \$150 crossing fee apart from other expenses and the long procedures through which he would have to go. Four years went by before the



Abdul Hamid Al Nawajbeh shows his land ownership documents registered with the mandate Palestine government prior to 1948.

dream of return started to become a reality. In April 1986, Egypt and Israel reached a settlement by which the stranded refugees would return in a three-phase move, which would take at least a year from the day of signing the agreement.

Egypt would give every family \$8,000 compensation for the property they would leave behind. Israel estimated that the cost of preparing the plots of land reserved for the returning refugees in Tel El Sultan Housing Project quarter in Rafah area, and laying the infrastructure, would come to a similar sum.

Every week starting on 15 April 1986, 25 heads of refugee families were brought to the Gaza Strip on one-day tours. The plots of land reserved for them were allotted and they registered their belongings with the Israeli occupation authorities. They returned to the Egyptian side on the same day. On 28 October, the 21st and last group came on this one-day visit. Phase I was completed.

Under Phase II of the settlement these heads of families will return to the Strip, again in weekly groups of 25 to construct their new houses. It was to have begun in the summer, but no action has yet been taken. The authorities are expected to permit them to stay in the Gaza Strip during the week and they will return to the Egyptian side on weekends. When they have built a basic dwelling of some 40 square metres, comprising about three rooms with a bathroom and a kitchen, they will be allowed to bring their families back to Gaza, under Phase III of the settlement.

UNRWA help continues

UNRWA has accepted a continuing responsibility for the stranded refugees. Two schools

and a clinic are run by Agency education and medical staff from among the refugees left behind, supervised by periodic visits from members of the health and education departments of the Gaza Field Office. A relief team crosses the border, every two months to distribute food rations and give other assistance to the inhabitants of the Canada quarter.

UNRWA welcomes the settlement reached between the two governments, although the total financial aid in cash and in kind, amounts to only half the cost of building a new home. For its part, the Agency has made the necessary arrangements to reintegrate the refugees into its regular facilities: places are reserved for all returning refugee children in UNRWA schools; the health services in the Rafah area will be reinforced, and the maternal, child and school health teams are standing by to examine young children and treat any problems which could not be properly handled over the past four-and-a-half years.

Every stranded UNRWA employee has been promised that he will be re-employed by the Gaza Field Office and UNRWA will continue to distribute rations to the returning refugees for six months after their return. Priority will be given to them for self-help projects grants to help them become economically independent. And, on UNRWA's advice, the U.N. Development Programme is to construct a 25-unit commercial and workshop centre in the Tel El Sultan housing project exclusively for their use, as well as a government secondary school.

The inhabitants of Canada quarter are now anxious to have all the phases of the settlement completed. They want to come back to Gaza.

Randa Habiba's

Expensive air

MANY people are shocked when they receive their water bills: Some people are being charged between JD 80 and JD 400 for a three month cycle of water consumption, which is absolutely mad. But it is becoming almost commonplace to be presented with a larger than expected water bill.

People complain, but they get the usual answer from officials of the Jordan Water Authority (WJA): Pay first and then file your complaint. We will send someone to check your water meter.

The fact is that the newly-installed plastic water meters imposed by the water authority are less accurate than the old copper ones, which incidentally happened to be less expensive. These plastic water meters are in fact registering air that passes through them, instead of water. The result is those outrageous bills received by subscribers.

The water meters that we are using — the plastic one — would be accurate if there was a continuous flow of water, which is not the case here. So, instead, those water meters are registering the amount of air passing through them when water is not running. The fact is that water pipelines are far from being perfect and are full of holes which leak water and suck in air instead. When water is not running, air runs through — even through closed taps — and the meter registers false consumption of water.

A solution to this seems to be very easy. Either reinstall the old meters, that are more reliable and more suited to our pipe system, or fit the plastic meters with air traps on the water line. After all, it is unfair that we should pay for air distributed through our water pipe system instead of water.

Legal row leaves grand Yugoslav mosque in limbo

By Peter Humphrey
Renter

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia — Yugoslav Muslims have built one of the grandest mosques in Europe, at a cost of \$4 million, but they cannot pray in it because of a wrangle with the Communist authorities.

The white mosque in the north Yugoslav city Zagreb is one of the biggest and costliest modern mosques outside the Islamic world, with Arab benefactors providing much of the money. Built, burned, and rebuilt, it has been bogged in controversy from the start. Its opening has been prevented because the authorities say it is illegal.

The mosque, big enough for 3,000 worshippers, is the third largest in all Europe, the Zagreb Islamic community says.

In no other Communist ruled country has a brand new major religious structure been built on this scale, they say.

The white domed building spreads over a patch of former wasteland on the edge of the city, its minaret towering above one of Zagreb's new residential estates. Its white and green exterior and gold leaf, although stark, is more lavish than any building erected here since the haroque of the Austrian empire, which ruled the area until 1918.

But not a soul stirs in the mosque, nor will it until the authorities give their own blessing for its consecration.

"The authorities are withholding the user's permit for the building because they say the original documents are not valid," local mullah Sevk Omerbasic told reporters.

The local authority had ruled that the Islamic community's building permit and certificate of land use were not in order. Zagreb's 30,000-strong Islamic community has built not only a mosque, but a community centre including Islamic shops, a restaurant, slaughter house, cinema and sports hall.

The authorities want the community to pay a 300 million dinar (\$650,000) fine before the documents can be revised to make the mosque legal, Omerbasic said.

The community is resisting this and the case is now being arbitrated in court. Omerbasic said he expects it to be settled by the end of February, when he hopes the mosque will open.

The mullah and the authorities have presented the row as a legal

one but local newspapers have indicated the wrangle has a domestic and foreign political dimension.

The main Croatian official newspaper Vjesnik noted that the entire Yugoslav Islamic community had been involved in funding the building, planning for which dates from 1964.

Vjesnik asked: "Why did the appropriate authorities issue permits if they were not in accordance with law?"

It said the case has "damaged not only the interests of the Muslim faithful but those of the country as a whole. Thus the matter has become a political problem."

Yugoslavia is a delicate mix of races and religions, and Croatia has historically seen itself as the last frontier of European and Catholic civilisation.

Local sources said some officials here see the mosque as an unwanted seal of permanence for the Muslims in a predominantly Catholic region where races from the south have historically been despised.

Four million Yugoslavs adhere to Islam, the biggest Muslim community in a European state west of Turkey, and there are some 3,000 mosques of various sizes around the country.

Some 1.8 million of them are Slav Muslims, while the rest include ethnic Albanians and 100,000 ethnic Turks.

The mosque cost \$4 million but it is not known how much of this was collected in Yugoslavia.

One oil magnate had reportedly contributed \$500,000. Half a million dollars were reported to have come from Libya, \$200,000 from Saudi Arabia, \$33,000 from Iraq and further contributions from Jordan.

The newspaper said Yugoslavia had been informed by unnamed unofficial sources that "it would be harmful to Yugoslavia's interests" if they blocked completion of the mosque.

It was suggested that this would upset the Arab countries, with whom Yugoslavia maintains close ties and upon whom its beleaguered industry depends heavily for oil imports.

The Islamic community negotiated for four years with authorities until 1967 before agreeing on the location.

Another 14 years went by before a building permit was issued and the foundation stone was laid.

King praises France's positive role

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein said U.S. credibility was "nearly zero" in the wake of the secret arms deal with Iran.

The King said Washington's only role in the Middle East now was through an international peace conference comprising the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"This is my personal conviction," the King said. King Hussein's remarks came as U.S. envoy Richard Murphy was in the Middle East to assess prospects for reviving a U.S.-inspired Middle East peace initiative.

The King said he had relayed his view to Mr. Murphy, who visited Amman Friday before going to Israel.

The King said that before Mr. Murphy's trip, he sent Mr. Reagan two letters "clearly and frankly explaining the extent to which U.S. credibility had been affected" in the Arab World by the arms sales to Iran.

"I demanded that a quick study be carried out if they wanted to be positive, and to do what has to be done to save this credibility, and to undo the damage and remove the threats to the Arab existence in the region," King Hussein said.

He added that he had asked the United States to reformulate its policy, particularly on the thorny Palestinian question.

King Hussein said Mr. Murphy "had nothing new" to offer, and that his mission was only to sound out the views of the parties involved.

"We were extremely frank with him. And of course we concentrated on (the need for) convening an international conference and clarification of the positions at the earliest possible date," the King said.

"We reiterated... that U.S. credibility is almost zero... unless a new, convincing and reassuring policy crystallises."

He added: "One cannot think of an American role on the basis of what the Americans had in mind when President Reagan announced his initiative... The

picture has changed completely." King Hussein said the United States could play "a positive role, if it wished, to achieve a just and honourable peace" through an international conference.

The United States and Israel do not favour a conference because it would give the Soviets a voice in the peacemaking process.

King Hussein said a conference, which he said was acceptable to Europe and the Soviet, was the "only viable formula left for peace in the Middle East and which the United States has blocked so far."

King Hussein called on Europe to use "pressure by logic" to persuade Washington and reconcile the U.S. and Soviet views on a conference.

In the interview, the King said that there was a similarity in the Soviet and French attitudes towards the convening of an international conference.

Referring to Jordanian plans for carrying out development projects in the Israeli occupied territory, the King said: "This is being done, as a duty by Jordan towards its Arab brothers who have been under occupation since 1967."

The projects would help bolster the steadfastness of Palestinian people in their homeland, the King added.

He said that the projects constitute no solution for the Palestinian problem and can by no means substitute a lasting peace.

In addition, Jordan cannot act, on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or serve as a substitute for the Palestinians in the coming peace-making process, the King said.

Asked on Egypt's mediation between the PLO and Jordan, the

King said that Jordan "still adheres to the Feb. 11 agreement with the PLO though it has suspended its political coordination with the organisation's leadership."

"However Jordan will be ready to resume the dialogue with the PLO if the organisation re-considers its position and cooperates with Jordan to serve the Palestinian people."

In the meantime, the King added, "Jordan will continue to extend all possible assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, a practice that has never ceased since the start of the occupation in 1967."

King Hussein referred to the situation in Lebanon disclosing that of late, Jordan made contacts with the Lebanese leaders urging them to hold a general dialogue among themselves so as to reach a formula for a solution to the problem.

"Any reconciliation among the Lebanese parties and warring factions would help safeguard Lebanon's independence and sovereignty."

He referred to Iran's latest offensive on Iraq and said it is hoped that the coming Islamic summit in Kuwait would find a formula to end the conflict and to bring peace to the Gulf. "The on-going war is a tragedy and the continued fighting represents a grave danger for the whole world."

King Hussein also expressed hope that the Arab leaders attending the Islamic summit would hold a meeting so as to look into means of bolstering their ranks and confronting the common challenges.

3 killed in Beirut clash

(Continued from page 1)

More than 700 people have been killed in the 16-week-old "camps war" in Beirut and South Lebanon.

The latest battles came as a special Arab League committee visited Damascus for talks on how to end the Amal-Palestinian conflict.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara told the committee his country would give "all help" to its mission, Damascus Radio reported.

Amal movement Wednesday admitted for the first time the loss of 600 militiamen in its three-month "camps war" with the Palestinian fighters.

Iraq says ground battle continues

(Continued from page 1)

(In Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iraq had suffered heavy casualties in a "limited operation" in the central sector launched Tuesday night.)

The Iraqi communiqué said the new offensive was aimed at Diyala province, east of Baghdad and bordering Iran.

"The enemy offensive... has failed and the invaders were defeated, leaving behind piles of corpses and large numbers of prisoners," it said.

Baghdad-based diplomats said Wednesday Iraq had massed hundreds of thousands of regular troops opposite Second Army Corps positions on the central front.

One diplomat told Reuters the

offensive east of Basra was launched by Iranian Revolutionary Guards and aimed at diverting attention to enable a regular army attack on the central front.

In Washington, U.S. defence officials said Wednesday Iraqi forces using heavy artillery barrages and air strikes have stopped an Iranian thrust toward Basra.

But they told Reuters heavy fighting continued in the area, just inside Iraq, and cautioned that the situation was fluid, with neither side anxious at present to commit more troops to the battle.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, also confirmed reports that the Soviet Union in recent weeks has sent several sophisticated MiG-29 fighters to

Iraq, adding to Baghdad's overwhelming air superiority in the six-year old war.

"It seems the Iraqis have stopped the move toward Basra and have retaken some of the lost ground. But there is heavy artillery fire and the situation is changing daily," one official said.

NBC News reported that the Soviet Union had delivered 19 MiG-29s to Iraq in the past several weeks and that the craft were at the Balad Air Base 125 kilometres north of Baghdad. The report said some of the planes were in the process of being assembled.

Pentagon officials declined to give specific figures but confirmed that several MiG-29s had been delivered. They said apparently none had been used by Iraq.

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Lendl, Navratilova advance easily; Becker struggles

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova, the men's and women's top seeds, easily won their first matches Wednesday to advance to the third round of the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships.

Lendl, playing on centre court, downed U.S. qualifier Danny Saltz 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 in a second match, while Navratilova, the defending women's champion, blasted fellow American Jamie Golder 6-0, 6-2.

Both Lendl and Navratilova, like the other seeds in the two-week tournament, received a bye through the first round.

Lendl, the defending U.S. and French Open champion, said he had never been better prepared for an Australian Open.

"I couldn't ask for better preparation, but that doesn't necessarily mean I will win the tournament," said Lendl, who was never won a Grand Slam event on grass.

Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, was struggling to avoid an early exit for the second year running after his second round match against Australian Brad Dyke was halted with the score at two sets all.

Second seeded Becker, beaten in his opening match at the last open here by Dutchman Michiel Schapers, was unable to capitalise on four match points in a tremendous fourth set tiebreak as Dyke, cheered on by the home crowd, matched him stroke for

stroke.

The left-handed Dyke eventually won the tiebreak 14-12 just before play was halted because of bad light, leaving the players locked at 6-7, 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 over-night.

Earlier, third-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States needed 2.5 hours to beat compatriot Alycia Moulton 6-2, 4-6, 11-9 in a rain-interrupted match to move into the third round.

Play was delayed for 90 minutes by rain early Wednesday, but the skies cleared by mid-afternoon.

Moulton rallied from a 2-4 deficit in the marathon third set, but lost service in the 19th game. Shriver then held her own serve to close out the match.

Despite the victory, Shriver was upset with her play.

"I was thinking so negatively today it wasn't funny," Shriver said. "That is inexcusable for a player ranked fifth in the world."

In my next match, I have to go out being aggressive, blasting away. I know nothing is shockingly wrong."

The Open is being played on Kooyong's grass courts for the last time before being switched to the new National Tennis Centre

in downtown Melbourne.

Kelly Evernden, a New Zealander who lost a leg in a car accident as a teenager, scored the first major upset in the men's singles. Evernden defeated the 10th seed, two-time champion Johan Kriek of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Kriek, who now lives in the United States, could not match the athleticism of the 25-year-old Evernden.

Australian John Frawley defeated Swede Peter Carlsson, who withdrew with a sore shoulder while trailing 6-2, 6-3, 3-2.

In early women's second round action, 10th-seeded Swede Catarina Lindqvist edged out Ann De Vries of Belgium 6-2, 6-3, and Cailla Cserpey, the Hungarian-born Swiss, defeated Australian Alison Scott 6-3, 6-0.

Beverly Bowes of the United States downed Australian Rebecca Bryant 6-2, 6-7, 6-3, and eighth-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States downed compatriot Elise Burgin 6-3, 6-4.

U.S. David Cup doubles player Ken Flach and Japanese teenager Akiko Kijamuta joined Evernden, ranked 289th in the world, as second round giant killers.

Flach, who had to win his way through the qualifying round, rallied to defeat 12th seeded Czech Milan Srejber 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Kijamuta, 18, surprised women's 13th seed Terry Phelps of the United States 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

Maradona could be out for rest of season

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Argentina's World Cup soccer captain Diego Maradona said he could miss the rest of the Italian season because of an ankle injury.

Maradona told reporters Tuesday he had knocked his ankle during the first half of his club Napoli's match against Ascoli last Sunday.

Maradona, who had two metal screws inserted after a serious injury four years ago, said: "I don't know what's happened but if that screw has been displaced then it's goodbye for me. The championship would be finished... it's a black moment, a very black moment."

England struggles against Australia in cricket test

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — England needed 281 runs for victory with nine second innings wickets in hand at the close of play on the fourth day of the fifth test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Set 320 to win in 363 minutes plus 20 overs, England was 1-39 at stumps.

Bill Athey on 11 and David Gower on five were the not out batsmen.

Leg spinner Peter Sleep gave Australia the breakthrough it needed when he caught and bowled opener Chris Broad for 17 with the fifth ball of his second over.

Sleep also appeared to have Gower missed when the England left-hander was only four.

He and test newcomer Peter Taylor hold Australia's victory prospects in their hands on a wicket taking appreciate spin.

Taylor continued his dream test debut with a solid 42 which gave Australia much needed breathing space.

Taylor and Steve Waugh put on 98, Australia's highest eighth wicket stand at the Sydney Cricket Ground since 1924-25.

Waugh, who made 73, and Taylor came together with Australia 7-145 and only 213 runs on, but their 136-minute partnership made England's target a most testing one.

The match finishes Thursday.

Sponsors up prize for world team tennis tourney

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — The new sponsor of the World Team Cup tennis tournament has raised the prize money purse from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for the annual eight-team event, organisers said Wednesday.

The French car company Peugeot, which has signed a three-year contract to sponsor the May tournament, will provide the bulk of the money, tournament chief Horst Klosterkemper told a news conference.

Peugeot replaces another French company, the cosmetics concern L'Oréal, as the main sponsor.

The prize for the winning team will be raised from \$250,000 to \$300,000, Klosterkemper said. The losing finalists will receive \$150,000.

This year's tournament is scheduled for May 18-24 in Dusseldorf, with the following teams taking part: defending champion France, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Argentina, Australia, United States and West Germany.

The teams are split into two groups, with the winners of each group advancing to the final. The second-placed team in each group will receive \$75,000 each, the third-placed teams will get \$30,000 each, while the bottom-placed teams will receive \$20,000 each. In addition, the best doubles pair will get a special award of \$50,000.

Jordan's soccer leaders battle for league title

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times



Al Faisali (top) plays Al Duffatein (bottom) for Jordan's Premier Soccer League title at Amman Stadium, under the patronage of Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani, on Friday at 2:30 p.m. (Inserts: Al Faisali coach Mohammad Awad, top, and Al Duffatein coach Mohammad Mustafa, bottom).



Winners Cup match which Al Faisali won 5-3 in a penalty kick period. In 1985, they faced off in the Jordan Cup final, with Al Duffatein taking the match 4-3.

Liverpool, Luton only teams to brave cold

LONDON (R) — Severe wintry weather continued to hit British sport Wednesday, forcing the cancellation of all race meetings and the postponement of every soccer match except one.

Liverpool's Football Association (F.A.) Cup third round replay against Luton.

The First Division champion and F.A. Cup holder's £100,000 (£150,000) investment in a hot water underfloor heating system, ensured its pitch would be in peak condition.

Luton, who drew 0-0 with Liverpool in its synthetic pitch on Sunday, the last soccer match played in Britain, took to the air to solve its difficulties.

Disruptions to train services and serious problems on Britain's motorways had prevented the team leaving for Liverpool. But the club managed to charter two executive jets from London Heathrow, the only airport operating in the area.

A travel problem had caused the postponement of Bradford City's third round replay against Oldham.

The visitor expressed concern to the F.A. about the safety of its players and supporters in crossing the Pennine mountain range where most roads have been described as impassable.

Ironically, Bradford City had only recently spent £30,000

Iraq, Syria object to Israeli participation in table tennis championship

NEW DELHI (R) — A ping pong war threatens to erupt in New Delhi over protests by Arab countries against Israel's participation in world table tennis championships next month.

Iraq and Syria said Wednesday through spokesmen at their embassies here that they would refuse to play Israel, setting off a controversy which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government must resolve before the start of the championships on Feb. 18.

"We will never play Israel. As for our participation in this competition, you must wait and see what we will do," Iraqi Assistant Press Counsellor Adnan S. Ismail told Reuters.

Ahmad Samir Dabbas, first secretary at the Syrian Embassy, said his country would also refuse to play Israel, but added that he was awaiting details of the championships.

The Israeli women have been drawn to meet Czechoslovakia and New Zealand and the men to meet South Korea, Luxembourg and Venezuela in the opening round of the team event.

Moolchand Chaudhan, a spokesman for the championships, told Reuters that 65 countries including Israel had been listed in the draw for the men's and women's events.

Chaudhan said Israel's application to compete in the

Greece beats Cyprus 3-1

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece beat Cyprus 3-1 (0-0) Wednesday in a Group Five qualifying round match for the 1988 European championships.

Greece scored all its goals early in the second half after a dull first period of slow midfield play.

Nikos Anastopoulos opened the scoring in the 54th minute with a semi-scissors kick over the head of Cyprus goalie Andreas Harito.

Six minutes later, Cyprus buried a free kick just outside the Greek penalty area, catching the Greek defence off-guard as striker Pavlos Sava blasted home the tying goal off a short pass.

It was Greece's second victory over winless Cyprus in European qualifying play. The Greeks won 4-2 in Nicosia, Cyprus, last month.

Defender yachts collide, Conner wins again

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — The America's Cup defender final began explosively Wednesday when Australia IV and Kookaburra III collided before the start.

Kookaburra III later recovered from losing its spinnaker to win the first race of the best-of-nine series by 29 seconds.

In the challenger final Stars and Stripes, skippered by Dennis Conner, extended its lead over New Zealand with its second straight comfortable victory, giving it a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven contest. Stars and Stripes

had one minute 36 seconds to spare at the finish.

The Australian yachts collided about three minutes before the starting gun when Kookaburra III, trying to tack behind Australia IV, rode over its rival's stern.

Both yachts had already raised protest flags during pre-start manoeuvres.

Kookaburra III had to discard its spinnaker just after the fourth mark when it botched a spinnaker peel, but recovered admirably, gaining three boat lengths on

Australia IV to lead the race for the first time by the sixth mark.

On the last two legs of the 24.5 nautical mile course, skipper Iain Murray hung on to his advantage.

The result is not final until an international yachting jury hears the protests.

Dennis Conner's Stars and Stripes, an 80-second winner over New Zealand Tuesday, adopted similar tactics in the second match, going for speed and avoiding tacking duels with the more agile fiberglass opponent.

Stars and Stripes inflicted only New Zealand's third defeat in 40 races since trials began last October. All have been at the hands of Conner.

The heavier San Diego yacht was stronger on the beats into the wind and increased its lead from 37 seconds on the fifth mark to one minute six seconds at the end of the third windward leg.

The winner of the challenger final will meet the top Australian defender in the best-of-seven grand final starting on Jan. 31.

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Jordan joins int'l sports federation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the International Sports Federation general assembly and executive bureau which will be held in Spain between Jan. 19 - 20.

Participants in the meetings will discuss a number of topics, among which will be the acceptance of Jordan into the federation. Jordan had earlier submitted an application for membership to the federation.

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U.K.-U.S. accord may open way to internationalise banking standards

WASHINGTON (R) — An Anglo-American agreement to impose similar capital requirements on banks may open the way to global banking standards, but regulators in other countries indicate they see no pressing need to join the pact just yet.

Announcing the accord last week, U.S. and British regulators said they hoped other countries would join in the agreement.

They urged them to adopt the same standards measuring the minimum financial cushion banks should maintain according to the level of risk attached to a bank's loans and other assets.

Regulators see the move toward worldwide standardisation of banking supervision as a necessary step in maintaining the safety and soundness of institutions as they compete in global financial markets.

"As we move toward globalisation of capital markets it is extremely important that all of the banks operate under the same regulatory standards," said Mr. Jonathan Fitcher, U.S. deputy comptroller of the currency for economic policy.

It also reflects a broader movement among the major industrial nations to coordinate policies on Third World debt and other major economic decisions as the actions of one country can often have an impact on financial markets.

An international committee of banking regulators from the major industrial nations has been discussing the issue of coordinating bank regulation for about two years and the U.S.-British accord is the first fruit of that effort.

Regulators in other countries expressed an interest in the accord but so far none are rushing to join it.

U.S. banking regulators admit it will be a long process persuading regulators from the other major industrial nations to join the capital standards agreement but they are guardedly optimistic that it will come about.

"I think we will see some progress, but how rapidly remains to be seen," Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker said at a news conference.

The new standards would require banks with the riskiest assets to raise their capital levels to provide a greater financial cushion.

For the first time, they also would apply capital requirements to contingent liabilities, such as standby letters of credit and loan commitments, which expose a bank to some risk but do not appear on balance sheets.

The new guidelines would move U.S. regulation closer to the standards applied in Europe, where some regulators already use risk-based standards and require banks to hold capital

reserves against some off-balance sheet assets, U.S. officials said.

The effort to standardise banking capital standards reflects growing concern about the competitiveness of U.S. banks in international markets as they tightened minimum capital standards over the past two years to shore up the safety and soundness of the banking system.

Currently U.S. banks are required to maintain a minimum capital ratio of six per cent to their total assets.

U.S. banking regulators have watched with growing alarm the sliding prominence of U.S. banks in world markets as Japanese banks draw level then increasingly overtake them.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker noted recently that seven of the top 10 international banks are Japanese while only one is an American bank and the two others are French.

A spokesman for the Western German Federal Banking Supervisory Office told Reuters in Frankfurt that the agency had considered joining the U.S.-British accord.

He said the agency welcomed moves to harmonise capital standards but saw no pressing need for it.

Banking sources told Reuters that Italian officials expressed an interest in harmonising capital standards and work was in progress toward that end.

Association representative, Mr. William Bosies.

"Japanese banks have a tremendous capital advantage and they have been using that capital advantage to gain market share," said Mr. Lawrence Cohn, a banking analyst with Merrill Lynch Capital Markets.

He said he doubted Federal Reserve officials will be successful in persuading the Japanese to join the accord on capital standards.

Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan officials met in Tokyo last week to discuss the standards. They agreed to continue talks but set no specific timetable, a Bank of Japan official said.

However, London's influence may play a major role in persuading regulators in other European countries to adopt uniform capital standards, international banking sources said.

A spokesman for the Western German Federal Banking Supervisory Office told Reuters in Frankfurt that the agency had considered joining the U.S.-British accord.

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Egypt pledges support for OPEC

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer received a pledge of Egyptian support Wednesday as he launched a campaign to marshal non-OPEC oil producers behind the group's price-boosting policy.

Sheikh Nazer told reporters he would visit the Soviet Union and Norway after his talks in Cairo, which started with a meeting with Prime Minister Atef Sedki.

He made no mention of a potentially more controversial stopover in London which industry sources in Riyadh said he was expected to make.

Britain Tuesday reiterated its rejection of efforts by OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Ex-

porting Countries) to increase prices by cutting output. "I am in Cairo to explain OPEC resolutions and review possible cooperation between the organisation and non-OPEC countries to stabilise international prices," Sheikh Nazer said.

OPEC agreed last month to cut total output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels per day (b/d) and to fix prices at about \$18 per barrel.

Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel reaffirmed Cairo's support for OPEC policy but said present production of 850,000 b/d, only about one-third of which is exported, was as low as Egypt could go and would be maintained.

"Our current production is already reduced," Mr. Kandeel told reporters. "But we will not hesitate to respond to any OPEC resolutions."

Oil industry sources told Reuters Egypt could produce more than one million b/d but kept output down to support OPEC and prop up world prices.

Mr. Kandeel said Egypt and the 13-nation group had the same interests, apparently meaning that both needed to keep up prices.

Egyptian officials have stated support for an \$18 price level but say Cairo must also maximise hard currency earnings to tackle "an economic crisis fuelled by revenue losses of more than \$1 billion last year because of the world oil price slump."

Egypt is seeking balance of payments support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help it to meet payments on total foreign debts of \$38.6 billion.

IMF negotiators are due to open a new round of talks on Saturday on an agreement which will serve as a prelude to debt rescheduling requests.

Dollar plunges in hectic trading

TOKYO (R) — The dollar plunged Wednesday in hectic trading, fanning speculation of an imminent interest rate cut in Japan and boosting Tokyo share prices, dealers said.

The U.S. currency was battered by a wave of selling Wednesday afternoon after the New York Times newspaper reported that the Reagan administration wants the dollar to decline.

The newspaper quoted unnamed administration sources as saying that it was unlikely that Washington would try to halt the dollar's decline, in light of a record U.S. trade deficit.

Speculators jumped on the report and dumped dollars heavily, sending the currency skidding down to just below 154 yen, its lowest level in three months. The dollar also closed sharply down against the West German mark, at 1.8550, its lowest level in more than six years.

The dollar plunged despite aggressive buying by Japan's central bank, estimated by dealers at about \$1 billion. On Tuesday, the bank bought a record \$2.5 billion in a vain attempt to prop up the battered currency.

Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita told reporters Wednesday the central bank will intervene decisively in the currency market if it is necessary to stabilise foreign exchange rates.

Given its lack of success so far in supporting the dollar through intervention, many dealers expect the bank to soon reduce interest rates. Lower interest rates in Japan would make the yen less profitable to own.

Hopes for a rate cut sent Tokyo share prices 240.60 points higher to close at 18,784.65 close. Issues which would benefit from a rate cut, such as banks, rose.

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Chinese party expels writer

PEKING (AP) — China's Communist Party has expelled a well-known writer from its ranks in its second public move this week to crush critics of the socialist system, according to an official report Wednesday.

The expulsion of Wang Ruowang, a Shanghai writer and social critic, came amid reports that the party was preparing a major meeting to discuss the crack down on "bourgeois liberals," advocates of a pluralistic political system in China.

There have been unconfirmed reports the meeting may also move to oust party chief Hu Yaobang, who reportedly has come under fire for his handling of recent student demonstrations and of party liberals accused of fomenting social unrest.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Wang, a council member of the Chinese Writers' Association long known as a vocal

critic of the government, had been expelled because he advocated opposition to the Communist Party's eminence.

It said he opposed China's four cardinal principles — adherence to socialism, Communist Party leadership, Marxism and Mao Tse-tung thought, and the people's democratic dictatorship.

Wang's opposition was particularly flagrant in the past two years, Xinhua said. Since late 1984, the government of Deng Xiaoping has encouraged intellectuals to speak out under the slogan, "let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend."

Xinhua said Wang, who was

present at the meeting announcing his purge, was told he had described China's socialist system as an "illusion" and had vilified party leadership in an attempt to negate it.

On Monday, it was announced that Fang Lizhi, an astrophysicist and vice president of the China Science and Technology University in Hefei, central China, had been fired because he had slandered socialism and party leaders.

The university president, Guan Weiyuan, also was removed from his post, with the official press saying he was "held responsible for the nationwide bad influence caused by student unrest."

Student demonstrations in Hefei in early December sparked a month of student unrest across the country, and Fang became a hero among the activists for backing student demands for greater democracy and freedom of expression.

The English-language Hong Kong Standard reported Wednesday that more than 1,000 students at the 4,500-student campus in Hefei demonstrated and signed a petition Tuesday protesting the removal of the two men. Efforts to reach Hefei by telephone to confirm the report were not successful.

Sources said the Central Committee meeting already had begun, and that party General Secretary Hu Yaobang's position was in jeopardy.

Mr. Hu has not been seen in public since Dec. 28, and there has been widespread speculation that he may be on his way out because, some unconfirmed reports say, Deng is unhappy about the way he handled the student unrest.

The party Foreign Affairs Liaison Office said earlier Wednesday that "comrade" Hu Yaobang is not in good health recently. That is why he has not received foreign guests.

Soviets report 1 death in Kazakhstan unrest

MOSCOW (R) — One person died and many were injured in nationalist-inspired riots in Soviet Kazakhstan.

Literaturnaya Gazeta said a 28-year-old volunteer worker named S. Savitsky was killed helping the police during more than 10 hours of rioting in Alma-Ata, capital of the Central Asian Republic. It said no rioters died.

Unconfirmed reports from the area have said about 30 police were killed in the disturbances, which broke out on Dec. 17 —

the day after veteran Kazakh leader Dimukhamed Kunayev was replaced by an ethnic Russian, Gennady Kolbin.

Discussing the situation in the republic before the riots, the newspaper said residents of Kazakhstan had faced food shortages and waits of up to 20 years for apartments.

But it also said the instigators of the disturbances had sought to incite nationalist feeling through fear of changes under way in the Soviet Union.

Death toll from Europe's killer freeze rises to 120

LONDON (R) — More than 120 people have been killed by the arctic weather gripping Europe and experts said Wednesday there was no sign of a quick thaw.

Heavy snow and cumbing winds sweeping the continent from the Urals to the Atlantic have pushed demands for electricity and gas to record levels. Chaos on roads and railways was reported from the Soviet Union to the south western tip of Britain.

The toll from the killer freeze rose to at least 12 in Britain Tuesday when six more old people were found dead. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher melted against charges of neglecting pensioners and agreed to opposition calls to grant 1.5 million people emergency heating payments.

As temperatures across Britain stayed below freezing, Gurkha troops were called out to ferry supplies to the Isle of Sheppey in south eastern Kent, which had been cut off by snow for three days. More snow was forecast for east and south east England Wednesday and weathermen said it would move west across the country.

London recorded its coldest January day since records began in 1940, minus eight Centigrade (18 Fahrenheit). Just across the channel, part of eastern France was reported to be one of the coldest spots in Western Europe with temperatures of minus 42C (minus 44F).

The intense cold pushed demands for power to new peaks. French electricity authorities reported consumption at a record 61,400 megawatts. In Britain, where demand was running at

more than 49,000 megawatts, officials said power cuts could not be ruled out and press reports said extra power had been obtained from France.

In Moscow, officials said Soviet power stations were beginning to run out of fuel stocks because of chaos on the snowbound railways.

At least 124 people are known to have died in one of Europe's worst winters since 1900. At least 77 deaths were reported in the Soviet Union.

Food shops in Britain reported panic buying, snow fell on France's Mediterranean coast, icebreakers went into action to clear ports and canals in West Germany and Belgium and heavy snow caused transport chaos throughout Italy.

Polar temperatures gripped most of Scandinavia but above the Arctic Circle in northernmost Sweden it was a balmy minus 1C (30F).

West German weathermen said satellite photographs showed a depression moving north from Spain and warned of fresh snowfalls across the country. Soviet authorities predicted temperatures would plunge again to minus 35C (minus 31F) by the end of the week after rising slightly in some parts of the country.

London's financial markets closed early because of the weather, leaving the bulk of trading to New York. Travel agents said Britons were snapping up winter holidays in any overseas resorts that were warm and sunny.

Three people were swept away by freak waves in the Canary Island of Tenerife.

Japan to counter Soviet influence in South Pacific

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Japan, anxious to raise its profile in the South Pacific to counter growing Soviet influence, on Wednesday invited the leaders of independent small states to annual political consultations in Tokyo.

"It is clear that it will become increasingly necessary, not only for Japan but for the Western nations as a whole, to look at the importance of the peace of the Pacific in a world-wide context," said Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari.

Mr. Kuranari, speaking to a group of local dignitaries at a reception, said Japan wanted Pacific heads of state to visit Japan

each year, either immediately before or after the annual meeting of the 13-nation South Pacific Forum.

"Japan has the very highest regard for the initiatives and efforts of the peace-loving island states of the Pacific to maintain peace and stability and cannot support the introduction of new tension into this peaceful and undisturbed region," he said.

During a visit to Australia last week, Mr. Kuranari said Japan was concerned about growing Soviet commercial activity in the South Pacific and that his government aimed to prevent any further "intrusion."

3 mafia bosses sentenced to 100-year prison terms

NEW YORK (AP) — The mafia has been staggered but not toppled by 100-year prison terms handed to three bosses and four other top mobsters, according to law enforcement officials, who promise unremitting pressure against the mob.

The heads of the Genovese, Colombo and Lucchese organized crime families were sentenced to 100 years each Tuesday for sitting on a commission of mob leaders that has ruled the mafia in

America since prohibition. U.S. district Judge Richard Owen also sentenced four other people to 100 years apiece for carrying out the commission's bidding. An eighth defendant was sentenced to 40 years.

"I can't say it's the end of the commission," U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani told a news conference. "But it makes it much more difficult to operate that kind of an operation."

Soviets rescue scientists

HOBART, Australia (AP) — A Soviet icebreaker rescued a group of Australian scientists stranded in Antarctica Wednesday after smashing a 35-kilometre path through pack ice to reach their ship, officials said.

They said the Mikhail Somov, flagship of the Soviet polar fleet, was escorting the 2,100-ton Nella

Dan, trapped in 30-centimetre deep ice since last Thursday, to Australia's New Law Base in the Larsemann Hills of Antarctica. Andrew Jackson, a spokesman for Australia's Antarctic Division in Hobart, said the Nella Dan, with 38 people aboard, became stuck when its route south was blocked by a massive glacial fall.

2 hotel workers arrested for Puerto Rican fire

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Two men have been arrested in connection with the New Year's Eve fire that killed 96 people at the luxury Dupont Plaza Hotel, officials have said.

Hector Escudero Aponte, 35, was arrested Tuesday and charged in local district court with first-degree murder, arson and destruction of property.

Escudero Aponte, who had worked at the hotel for 10 years, was the first person arrested in the case.

A U.S. official who demanded anonymity said a second arrest was made, but refused to give details. "I don't have any of the particulars, but there has been a second arrest," he said. Other officials spoke of a conspiracy.

According to charges filed in the federal district court in this U.S. commonwealth, Escudero Aponte set the fire "in concert with and in agreement with others."

The New York Times reported Wednesday the second suspect allegedly provided material to set the fire and had blocked Escudero Aponte from public view while the blaze was set.

According to the New York Times, the second man was a busboy at the hotel and, like Escudero Aponte, was a member of the local Teamsters Union that had planned to strike the hotel.

The Times quoted a federal official as saying the second suspect would be charged on Wednesday with "conspiracy, aiding and abetting."

Justice Secretary Hector Rivera Cruz and Jerry Rudden, chief spokesman for the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that joined the investigation, also said they did not believe Escudero Aponte had acted alone.

Mr. Rudden said the phrase "in agreement with others," is the "wordage for conspiracy,"

The fire, which also injured about 140 people, raged out of control through the ballroom and then into the casino directly above, where 91 of the 96 fatalities occurred, investigators said.

Governor Rafael Hernandez Colón has said tense labour-management relations may have been a motive for the fire, but he did not blame the Teamsters Union — which had planned a strike for midnight New Year's Eve — as hotel management or non-teamster employees.

The FBI claimed Escudero Aponte confessed to his role in the fire and added: "He was identified as having stated to another union member that the stereo type fuel can that he possessed and had in his hand was to start a 'small fire'."

The federal indictment accused Escudero Aponte of setting the fire and thus interfering with interstate and foreign commerce. Escudero Aponte received a hearing on that charge before U.S. district court Judge Justo Arenas, who ordered him jailed without bail until Friday. A preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 20.

North Korea rejects Seoul's call for summit

TOKYO (R) — North Korea rejected South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan's proposal for a summit meeting with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung this year.

The North Korean News Agency quoted Pyongyang's official newspaper, the Rodong Sinmun, as saying Mr. Chun put forth nothing new in his new year policy speech and avoided answering the North's offer for high-level political and military talks, proposed by Mr. Kim last month.

"He (Chun) twanged the harp of talks of top authorities ... averting his eyes from the present reality in which political and

military confrontation between North and South had reached the highest pitch," the daily said.

On Monday, Mr. Chun called on Kim to meet him this year and to resume trade, parliamentary and Red Cross talks which were suspended by Pyongyang early last year.

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, also quoted Tuesday Rodong Sinmun as reporting: "If North-South high-level political and military talks and multi-channelled dialogues are held successfully, it will be possible to open North-South summit talks and discuss there fundamental problems for the reunification of the country."

Britain to reduce forces based on Falkland Islands

PORT STANLEY (R) — Britain will cut its forces on the Falkland Islands in the next few days when they move to a new base on the archipelago, military sources have said.

Work on the new £450 million (\$661 million) military base at Mount Pleasant Airfield, 50 kilometres west of Port Stanley, has been completed, they said.

They would not give the exact number of soldiers based on the British-administered South Atlantic islands, which are claimed by Argentina.

Britain is widely believed to have had about 4,000 troops stationed here for the past 4½ years since it sent a task force to dislodge occupying Argentine forces in a brief war.

Civilian sources said they expected the level to fall to about 2,000 men with the move to

Mount Pleasant, a windswept complex of barracks with a runway big enough to take wide-bodied British air force transport planes.

They said they expected the move to take place next week. Senior officers said the cut in troop levels would not affect Britain's ability to meet any invasion threat, but a new attempt by Argentina to seize the islands was considered unlikely.

"Argentina is in the process of modernising and updating her armed forces, but I think it is highly unlikely that President Alfonsín would consider military action now," one officer said. "He is dedicated to a peaceful settlement."

British Defence Secretary George Younger has been on the islands since Sunday on a six-day visit to meet troops and civilians.

Hungarian authorities hunt Colombian envoy's assailant

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian authorities are hunting a single gunman who shot and seriously wounded a former Colombian justice minister who was serving as ambassador to Hungary, a senior Colombian diplomat said.

He said the former minister, Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, was still under care in Budapest hospital where he underwent emergency surgery on three bullet wounds.

"It seems his life is not in danger at the moment," Luis

Gonzalez Barros, Colombian ambassador to Bono who travelled to Budapest after the shooting, told Reuters.

In Bogota, a group named after a drug trafficker Tuesday night claimed responsibility for the attack.

Mr. Gonzalez Barros, said Hungarian authorities searching for the gunman told him they had put checks on all exits from Budapest, and Hungarian border guards had been alerted.

COLUMNS 7&8

Norton motorcycle roars back to life

LONDON (R) — The Norton, one of Britain's best known motorcycles before it was run off the road by Japanese competitors, is to attempt a comeback. Entrepreneur Philippe le Roux said on Tuesday he planned to put a version of the rotary engine Norton Interpol used by police forces on sale to the public. The lightweight 130 mile an hour machine will be priced at around £4,500 (\$6,300). He also wants to revive the Norton Commando, one of the last models of a line stemming from the Manx Norton racing machine of the 1950s. An estimated 90,000 Commandos exist around the world and spare parts for them are still available.

E. Germans return stolen art to Dutch

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany on Tuesday returned 33 old masterpieces, including drawings by Albrecht Durer, to the Netherlands that were stolen after German troops invaded the country in 1940, the state-run news agency ADN said. East German Deputy Foreign Minister Bernhard Neugebauer handed over the drawings to the Dutch ambassador to East Berlin, Carel J. Schneider, at a ceremony in Dresden, ADN said. The masterpieces by Durer, Hans Leonhard Schaefflein, Martin Schongauer and Matthaeus Marian, all dating back to between 400 and 500 years, had been stored in museums in Dresden and Leipzig, ADN said. "They were finally found thanks to the intensive efforts of the East German authorities and were returned according to a decision of the government of East Germany," ADN said.

Policeman suspended for beating singer

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav policeman has been suspended for beating an opera soloist because he enjoyed hitting singers, the semi-official daily newspaper Politika said on Wednesday. It said policeman Dragan Jevtic dragged Goran Gligoric, soloist with the Belgrade opera, out of his car on December 21 and beat him, causing serious injuries. Gligoric pleaded with the policeman not to hit him in the head as he was a singer. Jevtic replied: "I love to beat up singers." Politika quoted a police report on the incident as saying Jevtic had been suspended for "a serious violation of professional responsibility and discipline."

Domingo's Otello draws cheers

LONDON (AP) — Plácido Domingo was still on his way to his dressing room Tuesday night at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, while others in the cast in "Otello" were on their way home. The Spanish-born tenor was delayed by fans inside the building, "kissing his way through the crowd," remarked one reporter. The opening night of Giuseppe Verdi's opera at Covent Garden was watched by a sell-out audience of 2,200, including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her husband Denis, who were in the royal box. It was the first new production of "Otello" at the opera house in 30 years. The Thatchers went on stage at the end to greet the cast, headed by Domingo, Italian soprano Katia Ricciarelli, and bass-baritone Justino Diaz from Puerto Rico. The trio, who had the same roles in Franco Zeffirelli's "Otello" film, took 14 curtain calls, along with conductor Carlos Kleiber and producer Elijah Moshinsky. Domingo, 45, played the Moor of 16th century Venice, duped by Iago into believing his wife Desdemona unfaithful so that he kills her.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Extension

FUNMANSHIP

By Lee Jones

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Diagramless

19 X 19, by Martha J. De Witt

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